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Jacobi edges Hickey in SGA election

By Ben Salkowe
Staff Writer

Andrew Jacobi '05 secured the Student Government Association (SGA) presidency with exactly 50 percent of the vote in last week's elections, winning by one of the smallest margins in years — only 32 votes ahead of his opponent Jimmy Hickey '05. J.S. Woodward '06, running uncontested for Student Co-Chair of Community Council (SCCOCC), took the position with nearly 70 percent of the votes, 245 individuals abstaining.

Following the SGA election, Jacobi thanked his opponent and expressed a desire that Hickey participate in next year's SGA. "I really hope to see him in the Senate next year since his experience would be incredibly helpful to the SGA, and we really do see eye-to-eye on most issues," Jacobi said.

Hickey, however, frustrated with the results, said, "It's disappointing because every candidate makes promises and has something to say, but for two years in a row now, we've chosen the candidate who lacks both the experience and the record of demonstrated service to the students that would give us faith in their promises and confidence in what they have to say."

Referring to current SGA President Sam Rodriguez '04, Hickey added, "This past year has shown us all too well that just being a nice guy doesn't make you a good SGA President. If we keep electing who we've been electing, then we'll keep getting what we've been getting."

Hickey also mentioned the low voter turnout. "We all seem to wish that things could be better here at Midd, but only one third of us really care who ends up being the student with the greatest ability to do something about it," he said.

The voter turnout for last week's elections was a record low for a spring election. Only 868 students — 38 percent of the student body — participated. The drop was a decrease of 31 percent from past elections.

SGA Director of Membership Courtney Taylor '04 noted, "It was all tied in to campaigning — less campaigning means less publicity for the elections." Taylor said she had noticed fewer advertisements by candidates reminding students to vote.

The decline was most ironic given that all three candidates campaigned on themes of restoring student relations with the SGA.

Among students who did not vote, most commented that

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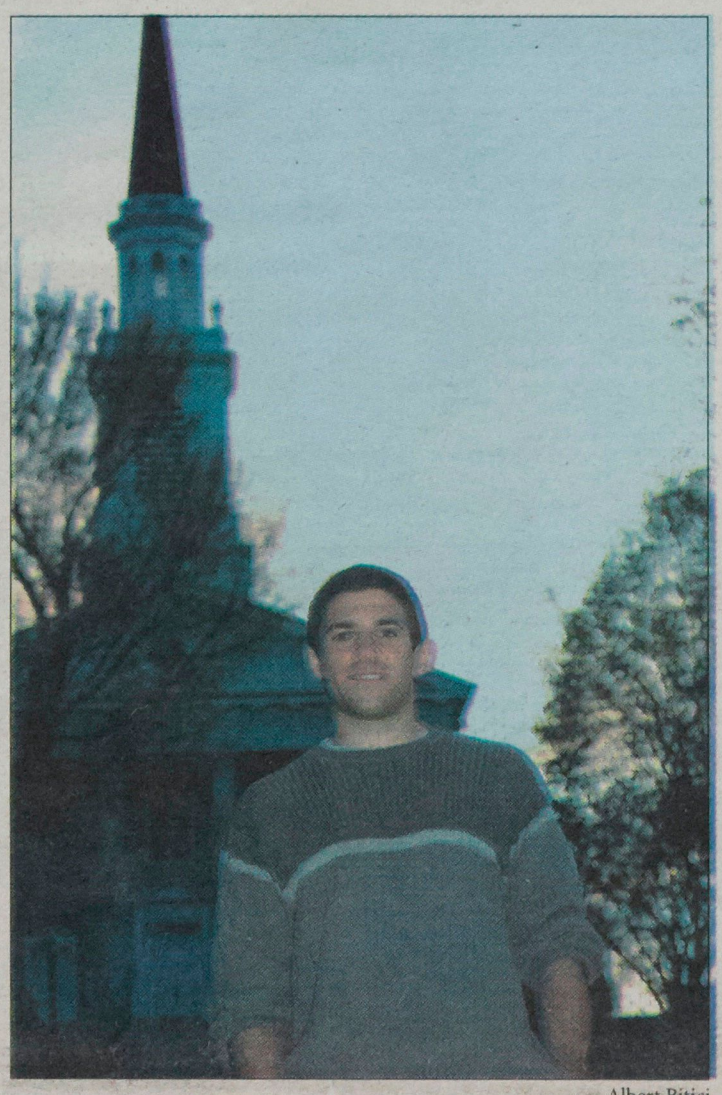


Albert Bitici

Andrew Jacobi '05 garnered 32 more student votes than his opponent, Jimmy Hickey '05, to win this year's SGA presidential election.

Course evals go online

By Daniel Phillips
News Editor

Students in classes with professors implementing the online course evaluation pilot for this semester received an e-mail Monday from the Registrar's Office heralding the inception of the test run. The e-mail briefly explained the rationale behind the possible switch and directed students to the front page of student BannerWeb, where they can access these electronic evaluations and fill them out at their own leisurely pace, outside the classroom, for the first time at Middlebury.

The pilot online version will consist of exactly the same six questions as the paper form, with two additional boxes to check overall assessment of the course and the teacher's performance. The e-mail noted that students have the option to "finish later" at any point in the evaluation process and return to the form at another time. The e-evaluation windows will be accessible on BannerWeb until Wednesday, May 19 at 12 p.m. The forms will remain completely anonymous and all of the completed submissions will go into a file at the end of the online process.

As is protocol with hand-written evaluations, professors will not receive the

See Pilot, page 4

STICKY SITUATION

Vlad Lodoaba

Attached to a wall of velcro, Smaranda Ene '05 elicits a laugh from Mihai Azoitei '06 at last Thursday's Brainerd Commons open-air picnic behind Hepburn Hall.

Is the value of an 'A' at Middlebury declining?

By Claire M. L. Bourne
Managing Editor

Consider this. Last spring, the average grade point average (GPA) at Middlebury College was 3.34 — a solid B+ — up from 3.12 just 12 years earlier. Consider this, too. Since 1991, most academic departments have reported steadily increasing GPAs.

Are Middlebury students getting smarter, or is the College on the Hill facing a grade inflation problem?

According to Associate Professor of Chemistry and Biochemistry Robert Cluss, grade inflation is not a "problem" at Middlebury per se. Nonetheless, he has spent the past two years researching grading trends at the College. "If the system is out of whack, we need to change something," he said.

Secretary of the College Eric Davis defined grade inflation at Middlebury as a "trend" rather than a "problem."

Cluss' findings prompted the Faculty Council to draft a "very modest proposal" encouraging professors in all departments to be "more aware of trends," he said. "Some faculty aren't aware of what the average grade is in their own course," he pointed out.

Davis said he agreed with the proposal, specifying that departments should discuss their grading policies on a yearly basis and that individual faculty members should be provided with "a program that could easily calculate the distribution of grades in their courses in comparison with departmental and College-wide averages."

Statistics tracking average GPAs for each department reveal considerable disparities between the departments with the lowest and the highest average grades. In the spring of 2003, the Physics Department reported an average grade of 3.07, while the Studio Art Department average was 3.79.

"These differences are probably accounted for more by differences in grading cultures across departments than by differences in the quality of students across departments," said Davis. Such trends make it harder for students majoring in departments with lower average grades to qualify for Latin honors or election to Phi Beta Kappa, he explained.

Grade inflation at highly selective colleges and universities first entered the national spotlight two years ago, when it was reported that 90 percent of Harvard University students received Latin honors with their degrees. Harvard vowed to reduce the number of students graduating with honors and amend its grading system.

Just last month, Princeton University announced a proposal aimed at capping the number of A's its professors award at 35 percent.

According to Davis, the Princeton proposal "may have the undesirable effect of leading to inappropriate competition among students" for the limited number of available A's and A-'s.

Dean of the Faculty and Vice President for Academic Affairs Alison Byerly also pointed out that such a limit might be dif-

See Grade Inflation, page 4

MIDDBRIEFS

BY MYRA PALMERO, VIRGINIA HARPER AND CAROLINE STAUFFER

Faculty council appoints eight new members

Eight faculty members were elected this week to the Faculty Council for terms beginning on July 1, 2004. Five tenured members — Associate Professor of Political Science Jeff Cason, Associate Professor of Chinese Carrie Reed, Associate Professor of Psychology Barbara Hofer, Associate Professor of Physics Susan Watson and Associate Professor of Computer Science Amy Briggs — and three non-tenured members — Instructor in Religion Suleiman Mourad, Assistant Professor and C.A. Johnson Fellow in Political Philosophy Kateri Carmola and Assistant Professor of Economics Jessica Holmes — will join the Council, which advises the president and serves as a liaison between the faculty and the president.

Both tenured and non-tenured members serve for terms that range from one to three years. Present Faculty Council member and Professor of History Jim Ralph said that the range in the number of years allows for rotation in the Council, while ensuring that there is a continuity of membership. This year Hofer and Carmola will be transitioning members from the past year's council. A member of the faculty must have completed two years of full-time faculty status at Middlebury before his or her elected term begins. Meeting weekly, with the president in attendance once each month, the Faculty Council advises the president concerning allocations of space and academic administrative appointments, discusses items referred to it by the faculty and updates faculty members on developments at the meetings.

Stipulations set for early student move-ins

In an e-mail sent on Tuesday, Acting Dean of Student Affairs Marichal Gentry informed students, faculty and staff of the new College policy regarding move-in for returning students. The changes will become effective on July 1, 2004.

Students should not plan on moving into their new dormitory rooms before Saturday morning, Sept. 11.

After the departure of Language School students and professors, dormitories are cleaned and necessary repairs are made. "There is little time for employees to repair and clean rooms and have all other residence hall spaces ready for occupation prior to Saturday, Sept. 11," said Gentry. "We are just asking for a little courtesy so that we can get everything ready."

Individual students with special circumstances should apply to arrive early through their commons dean. Decisions will be made on an individual basis, but will not be granted for convenience. Gentry suggested that students should not expect moving in early based on long-distance travel and should make travel plans accordingly. Groups and organizations who wish to be on campus before Sept. 11 should apply by written request to Dean of Student Affairs Ann Hanson.

Students returning for residential life training, chairs of the commons councils and students working on-campus this summer need not apply for such permission. Any students who return early without consent from their dean will be charged $200 per night.

Dining hall hours unveiled

Dining Services staff will be split among three areas next fall, according to Director of Dining Services Matthew Biette. Proctor will follow hours similar to those at Freeman International Center (FIC) this year, which will close upon the completion of the new Atwater facilities. It will close for Friday night dinner and remain closed until Sunday dinner. Ross will be open all seven days, as will Atwater.

There is a slight chance that the new Atwater facility may not be ready when school opens. If that is the case, FIC will be open for the seven-day schedule until the move to Atwater can be made.

"We have wonderful people in all of our operations who care deeply for the students," Biette said. "You will have the opportunity to visit Nancy, Tammy and Debbie at Proctor. Mary will be at Ross still. Students will also be able to get to know other faces of the dining staff and build relationships."

CORRECTION

In last week's article "Track and Field performs well at NESCACS," Jennifer March '04 was incorrectly identified as Jennifer Marsh. *The Middlebury Campus* regrets this error.

'Students for Life' gets green light

Committee approves group's revised constitution

Albert Bitici

(From Left to Right) First-years Maria Dickinson (president), Sarah Jones (secretary) and Ashley Timidaiski (treasurer) were granted club status for their group, Students for Life, after the Constitution Committee approved their second proposal.

By Amanda Goodwin
Staff Writer

The Constitution Committee granted club status to the Students for Life group last week, reversing its initial decision. According to the Student Government Organization Director of Student Organizations Adam Dixon '04, the group's first request was denied due to missing documents and disagreements regarding some of the activities proposed by Students for Life founders Maria Dickinson '07 and Ashley Timidaiski '07. The revised constitution that earned approval was co-written by Dixon and the intended presidents.

Dixon noted that the main area of initial contention concerned a proposed student-run counseling service through Parton Health Center, a traditionally neutral zone. "We felt that many students are not qualified to provide abortion counseling, and that the Health Center should not become biased," said Dixon. "We were not going to approve Students for Life with that as its central mandate."

Following a close Constitution Committee vote denying the group approval, Dixon worked with Dickinson and Timidaiski to modify the constitution, removing clauses concerning a proposed counseling service.

Another provision for the approval of Students for Life was that it needed to provide a "non-hostile forum," thereby prohibiting protests and abrasive acts. Furthermore, Students for Life was not allowed to actively solicit or accost students with pamphlets, in accordance with College policy. "As a group, we decided these activities were not necessary, especially with regard to the potential legal issues involved," said Dickinson. Timidaiski added, "As far as I know, we will not be attempting any counseling services through the Health Center. CareNet in town still does offer counselor training, but we will not endorse this through the club. Instead we merely make individuals aware that such an offer exists. As far as pamphleting goes, we do not intend to do anything that is against school policy. Most of the problems with these issues were miscommunication and our honest ignorance of existing policies," she noted

Dixon stressed the Committee's inclination to approve Students for Life as a means of bringing a unique club to campus. He praised the club's other proposed initiatives and activities, including hosting an impressive lineup of speakers who would provide a forum for discussing pro-life issues, a march for life, a website and a film series in Sunderland.

Dixon said he was impressed by Students for Life's recent interaction with other student groups, particularly through their discussions with Feminist Action at Middlebury (FAM) and their "Abortion and the U.S. Constitution" symposium. "Our [symposium] was such a success that we hope to hold many such forums next year, perhaps covering other life-related topics as euthanasia or infanticide," said Timidaiski. "We have talked with a few members of FAM unofficially and they were extremely pleased with the suggestion of collaborating in the future for speakers or panel discussions. I think they appreciate the increased dialogue on campus about these issues as much as Students for Life does."

Students for Life's approval is just the beginning of a struggle to gain recognition and, hopefully, respect on campus.

— Ashley Timidaiski '07

While the Constitution Committee approved Students for Life with no mention of the counseling service, Dixon said that the club is welcome to attempt to implement such a program, should it get the Health Center's support and consent. "We initially voted down their constitution because we did not think that students themselves have enough training to serve as counselors," concluded Dixon. "Still, it is a topic that needs to be discussed, because [pregnancy] happens on this campus more often than people think."

"Students for Life's approval is just the beginning of a struggle to gain recognition and, hopefully, respect on campus," said Timidaiski.

Council extends party hours

By Thomas Drescher
News Editor

Community Council voted Monday to pass a resolution that will extend the hours of social house parties by one hour. Alpha Delta Phi (ADP) and Omega Alpha (Tavern) will now be permitted to host parties until 3 a.m., Kappa Delta Rho (KDR) and the Mill until 2 a.m.

The bill, authored by Inter-House Council Senator Mike Vilarello '05, will go into effect next fall pending approval by President McCardell. According to Vilarello, fall semester will be a trial period for the policy change. He has recommended that a review be scheduled by the end of J-Term.

Vilarello said he hopes that this policy amendment will be successful among social houses and eventually extend to all College organizations in a broader effort to improve social life on campus.

Social houses that abide by the College's hard alcohol policy are currently permitted to host parties no longer than five hours. The Mill is the only exception – its party length is capped at four hours. One keg is allowed for each hour of a party. Vilarello's bill does not address this topic, but he noted that many Council members would like to increase the length of parties and the amount of alcohol offered.

The bill met with widespread approval at this week's Student Government Association and Community Council meetings. Vilarello added that he hopes his bill will be the first of many positive policy changes regarding social life.

The Council's approval of Vilarello's bill comes on the heels of the social house Zeta Theta Phi's (ZOO's) recent decision to voluntarily disband as an organization.

More grads to sign green ribbon pledge

By Megan Michelson
Staff Writer

Middlebury College graduates have a reputation for saving the world, literally. Alumni include Charles MacCormack '63, CEO of Save the Children, John Wallach '64, founder of Seeds of Peace and Adrian Benepe '78, Commissioner of the New York City Department of Parks and Recreation. Countless graduates have gone on to pursue careers that promote social and environmental responsibility. Since 2002, graduating seniors have been able to sign a pledge promising to remain dedicated to social and environmental awareness in the decisions they make in their personal and professional lives after Middlebury.

Printed on a small blue card that graduates can keep in their wallets, the Graduation Pledge reads, "I pledge to explore and take into account the social and environmental consequences of my daily actions and of any job I consider, and I will try to improve those aspects of any organization for which I work." Seniors and faculty members who volunteer to sign the pledge will wear a green ribbon at the commencement ceremony on May 23.

The College joined the national Graduation Pledge Alliance in 2002 through the initiative of Michael Silberman '02.5 and a committee of volunteers. Roughly half of the graduates displayed a commitment to the pledge in the first two years since its establishment and nearly 30 student organizations have signed on as "ideological sponsors." This year, the numbers are expected to increase.

"There appears to be a definite increase in campus awareness of and participation in the pledge program. The Graduation Pledge became an official student organization last year which I think speaks to students' growing interest and commitment to pursuing post-grad opportunities which are socially and environmentally conscious," said Krista Siringo, associate director of Career Development and founder of the Careers in the Common Good program.

Nearly 100 other colleges and universities in the country offer similar pledges, but Middlebury stands out in terms of the number of graduates who work in careers in and for the common good. Peace Corps and Teach for America are among the top employers for Middlebury graduates. Results from the graduation survey of the Class of 2003 indicated that 41 percent had plans to pursue careers in the non-profit sector, which includes jobs in education, the environment, health care and human services.

A list of sample Middlebury alumni careers reads like a textbook for social responsibility—marketing coordinator for Hope Community Inc. in New York City, coordinator for Project Harmony in Moscow, director of the Nature Conservancy, alumni relations manager for Amigos de las Americas and manager of Defenders of Wildlife.

Students do not have to work for a world-changing organization to sign the Graduation Pledge, however. All graduates, regardless of their professional goals, can voluntarily be conscientious of the lifestyle choices they make. "It's not like you have to be a tree hugger or save the world to sign the pledge. Everyone can take little steps to fulfill the promise," explained Judith Schutter '04.5, chair of the Middlebury College Graduation Pledge Alliance.

There appears to be a definite increase in campus awareness of and participation in the pledge program.

— Krista Siringo

The pledge is meant to inspire students to take responsibility for their actions in the future. "The pledge is a goal that is worthwhile, especially in this day and age. After graduating from Middlebury we have a lot of opportunities. It's important to cipher through those options and find something that isn't just a paycheck, but that's worth more than that," said Schutter.

Health Center appoints an associate

By Elizabeth Campbell
Staff Writer

After months of reviewing applications and interviewing candidates, the Parton Health Center has selected Terry Stevens as the first associate director of the Health Center. Stevens, who was appointed on Friday, brings extensive experience and commitment to the job, as she has already served as a registered nurse at the Health Center for 16 years.

The associate director position was established this year after openings in both the administrative and health education positions appeared. Specifically, the job is designed to provide Middlebury students with more attentive and efficient health care and to facilitate the health education and administrative functions of the Health Center.

"I think it's going to signal a change in the main role of the Health Center, focusing more on preventing illness rather than just treating it," said Director of the Health Center and Head Team Physician Dr. Mark Peluso. "Before, health education was not really a main theme of the Health Center."

Stevens is optimistic about the new position and the future improvements she intends to make to the health program at the College. While she recognizes the functions of the job, such as nursing supervision and management and budget administration, Stevens is particularly looking forward to reconfiguring the role of the Health Center by increasing interaction with students.

"I hope to build a liaison between the Health Center and each commons in the form of a nurse. The commons and that nurse can develop any kind of relationship that works for them to help make the service here more personable and comfortable."

Additionally, Stevens hopes to increase health awareness and sickness prevention by augmenting the College's health education program, a primary issue that she focused on in her application. The goal of health education, she asserted, is "to optimize the educational experience for each student by aiding them in maintaining their health or getting them back to a healthy state as quickly as possible. We must talk to the students about health care issues that affect them directly on a daily basis."

Specifically, Stevens pointed to educating students about dealing with fevers, helping friends who have been vomiting all night, unprotected intercourse and a variety of other health issues that often affect college students and cause them to perform below expectations.

In the search for an associate director, the Health Center looked not just regionally but nationally for prospective candidates. Thirty contenders from all over the country applied for the position, most of whom were registered nurses, and four final applicants were selected to be interviewed.

"We picked the four applicants who we thought would be best for the student body and nurses, in that order," said Peluso. "Each applicant then had to undergo a very rigorous day of interviews, and each had to give a presentation on a student issue. Terry's presentation on health education was pretty telling of who would do the best job."

Indeed, Stevens' appointment to the job has been met with enthusiasm not just from the Health Center but from students, as well. Craig Pittman '04 served as a member of the interviewing committee and helped to evaluate each candidate from a student's perspective. Pittman provided a view into the daily life of Middlebury students that most faculty and staff do not see, taking each candidate on a tour of dorm rooms, athletic facilities, classrooms, dining halls and various other places across campus.

Albert Bitici

Terry Stevens is the newly appointed associate director of Parton Health Center. She advocates the implementation of nurses in each commons.

"Each time I met with a candidate, my main objective was to gain an understanding of how they would relate to students," commented Pittman. "The associate director of the Health Center will be working with students daily and must be able to understand and relate to them. The most noticeable difference with Ms. Stevens was how she related to the students we encountered during the tour. In this new position, Ms. Stevens will be called on to deal with a variety of student issues, and I believe she is the perfect candidate for this new position."

Stevens emphasized her main goal for the Health Center to become "more pro-active than reactive" and to develop a more intimate relationship with the student body through the commons system. "My overall, umbrella goal? To help students fulfill their mission and commitment to their education and stay healthy and in class through pro-active measures and to get students back to a healthy state as quickly as possible through consistent and excellent health care."

OVERSEAS BRIEFING

BY ERICH KAHNER

Tomato.

Come on, say it.

TOE-MAY-TOE.

Ha! Stupid American. It's TOE-MAH-TOE.

Let us continue. The fact — yes, that's right, the *fact* — that you are ignorant butchers of the Queen's English might be tolerable if you were at least funny, instead of just loud and long-winded. (Because we all know that the British are humor aficionados.) But the only remotely laughable thing issuing from your mouths is your critique of other countries — namely Britain's — international relations. We will not even try to decipher this critique out of your confusing, labyrinthine arguments. And besides, who are you to judge your elders you ungrateful toddlers? You are the ones who should be judged. After all, (*cough! oil fields…*) you cannot even correctly pronounce the name of the country you so eagerly wanted to bomb (*oil field $…*). Oh, and one more thing… you're fat too.

Welcome to Britain! No, I am not a modern day Benedict Arnold. In fact, due to the amalgamation of abuse exhibited above, over the last nine months I have become an avid patriot for the first time in my life.

Granted, I encounter only bits and pieces of this inflammatory argument on a weekly basis. And most of the time, those statements are made in jest — Brits get a kick out of seeing a frustrated American. But if you bump into the wrong people, the idea of the oafish, gun-totin', money hungry Joe and Jane Yankee is laid down as a perceived truth.

So I try to set a counter-example. At first it was a relief to hear a friend of mine refer to me as "a good egg." I bucked the greedy moron stigma, and my love for exploding stuffed animals with my grandpa's shotgun was begrudgingly overlooked. But the continued bashing of the American public whittled my self-satisfaction away. My friend, the very one who vindicated me, does not understand my perturbation. "We aren't making fun of you," he'll say. "We're making fun of them."

He cannot realize that I do not want to be separated. I want to be and am part of "them." While he is cozy in his home nation, I am robbed of the empowering and comforting sense of solidarity gained by living with a common people. Maybe I'm being idealistic, albeit in a very narrow way, but nine months of absence amid the verbal lures toward sedition has given me pride in my country — a pride that will not allow me to even think of ever living anywhere else. I will be sad to leave Scotland, the sight of the best year of my life, but on May 27, 5:40 p.m. central time at Chicago O'Hare, my lips will be pressed to that runway.

College weighs in on grade inflation debate

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

ficult to standardize. "I'm not sure that one can assume that the proportion of A work in a given semester is statistically consistent across different departments," she said.

Cluss said Middlebury would most likely never consider restricting the grades its faculty gives because such a measure would counteract the College's philosophy of cooperative learning by increasing competition among students. He recalled the "cut-throat, pre-med mentality" that defined his college experience. "It takes the joy out of learning," he said.

The faculty seems to be divided on the issue of grade inflation. "Some faculty aren't concerned about it. Others believe it dictates what courses students will elect to take and what departments they will elect to take them in. Some say students are just getting stronger," Cluss said.

According to Dean of Enrollment Planning Mike Schoenfeld, the Admissions Office has witnessed an upward trend in applicants' SAT scores for eight years running. Additionally, 80 percent of students who matriculated in September were in the top 10 percent of their high school classes. Based on these statistics, Schoenfeld said students being accepted to Middlebury "are more academically accomplished and have been for about eight or nine years."

Nevertheless, some students say Middlebury is struggling with easy grading policies that could diminish the value of a high mark. "It's always easy to get a B in a class, even if you don't do any work, which is unacceptable at a college like Middlebury," said senior Karl Whittington. "If you address the material, even if in a disorganized way, and even with unoriginal arguments, you can still get a B."

He admits receiving A's on work he did at the last minute and says he thinks "teachers feel especially like they need to give high grades to those who are majors in the subject, even if the work is sub-par."

While it is true that students are receiving fewer C's today than in the past, this "does not necessarily mean that there should be a corresponding increase in the number of A's," Davis said.

"We want to make sure that Middlebury A's and A-'s awarded to the very best students are indeed recognized as exemplary grades by graduate schools and by employers," he continued.

Laura Rockefeller '04 said she has "received high grades on papers I didn't think deserved them," but she has also "received grades that were lower than I wanted (although I know that is an extremely relative statement) on papers that I thought were well-written."

Not all Middlebury students coast through their classes with a B+ average. Rockefeller said she knows people in her major who are "struggling to continue getting B's."

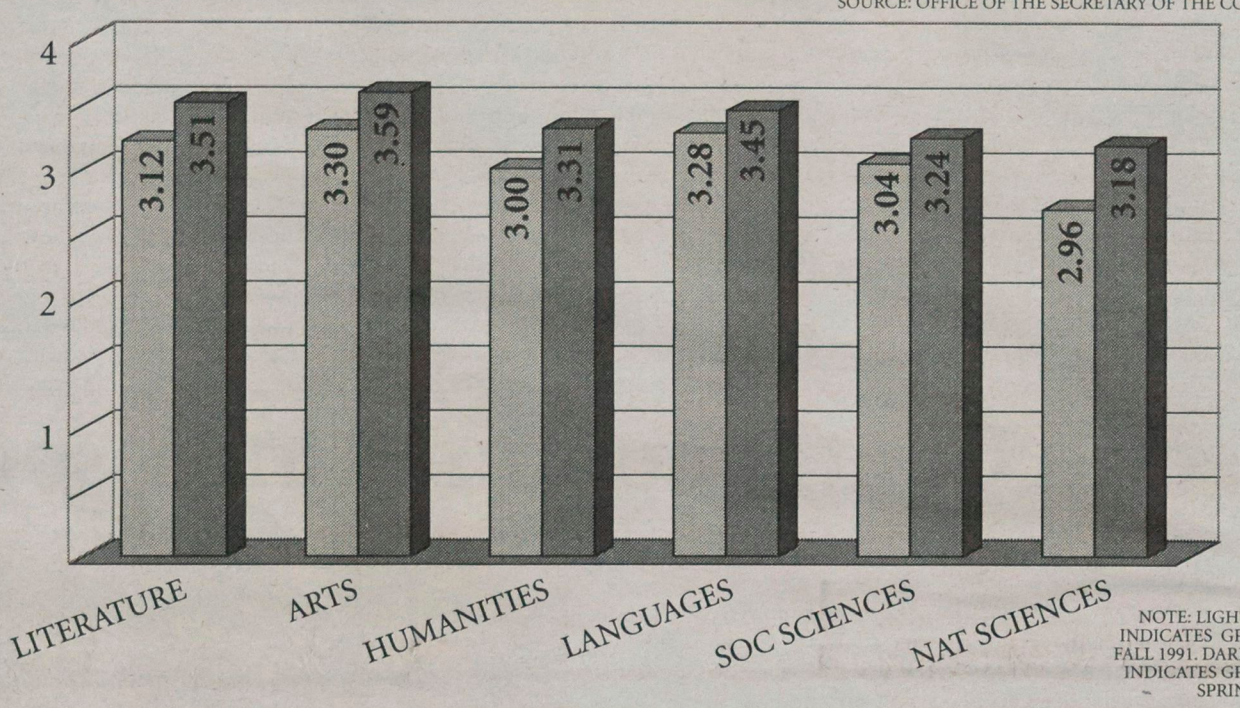
"While I have certainly noticed that for me and a number of my friends it is shamefully easy to procrastinate and still get mostly A's, I would hate to see the grading system made harder simply for the sake of making it harder," she said. "It is in the best interest of [the College] to foster in students a desire to work hard because they are truly interested in the material … rather than because they are afraid of getting a D."

Cluss presented the Faculty Council's "modest proposal" to department chairs Monday afternoon. He stressed that the document is strictly advisory. Should the College decide to modify its grading protocol, the policy change would come from the Educational Affairs Committee.

Although a "far-reaching" faculty discussion on the topic has yet to take place, grade inflation could headline the September faculty meeting at Bread Loaf.

DIVISIONAL GRADE POINTS AVERAGES (GPAs): FALL 1991 AND SPRING 2003

SOURCE: OFFICE OF THE SECRETARY OF THE COLLEGE



NOTE: LIGHT GRAY INDICATES GPAs FOR FALL 1991. DARK GRAY INDICATES GPAs FOR SPRING 2003

Pilot online surveys tested

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

electronic responses printed out from the folder until the second or third week of June after turning in final grades.

Due to the experimental nature of the assessments, Secretary of the College Eric Davis has asked Information Technology Services to closely monitor how many students fill them out during the last week of classes or exam week. Currently the paper forms yield about a 90 percent completion rate. Davis said that other institutions using online evaluations such as Bates and Wellesley retain about a 70 to 80 percent level, but students' responses are "longer, fuller and more detailed," noted Davis. He said that Wellesley students cannot access their finals grades online until they complete their course evaluations.

The big worry is that students will put less time into their responses if they do them on their own time and submit them electronically.

— Brett Millier

"For one thing, they'll be nicer to read because you don't have to decipher people's handwriting," said Davis.

Reginald L. Cook Professor and Chair of American Literature Brett Millier feels that the "current timing of course evaluations is awkward in many cases — many courses culminate in final projects and research presentations that occur after the last week of classes. In addition, many professors and students object to taking time out of a packed final week of classes to do the evaluations," she said.

Charles A. Dana Professors Kirsten Hoving (history of art and architecture) and Murray Dry (political science) both chose to participate in the online test in favor of the extra class time and in hopes that students may submit more thoughtful responses. But Dry expressed reservations: "We'll see how the responses come out. Chances are, they might not be as extensive."

Millier has served for several years on the Committee on Reappointment (COR) and has read hundreds if not thousands of evaluations. "Quality of response varies greatly now," she noted. "In general, I think, students greatly underestimate the seriousness with which evaluations are read by Department Chairs, the COR and administrators," said Millier.

"[The online evaluation pilot] seems to me to be an effort to get better student input — better timing, no time constraints, better perspective on what the course's mission was," she said, adding that "the handling of paper evaluations is a huge task for the administrative support staff in Old Chapel, and they deserve innovation in this area. I personally feel strongly that my students should fill out the evaluation when they are 'done' with the course." Avoiding the clumsiness of the in-class evaluation session is another inconsistency Millier hopes the online evaluations will help iron out.

"Electronic evaluations can easily generate data to help administrators evaluate evaluations — to ask questions about gender or racial bias, about 8 a.m. class bias, about political bias, new professor bias, etc. That would be very useful information to have," she said.

"The big worry," continued Millier, "is that students will put less time into their responses if they do them on their own time and submit them electronically." But Davis does not envision this as the case. "I think students will give detailed responses," he said. Additionally, if students wait to fill out the forms after their final exam, they could weigh in how fairly they were tested in the course.

Davis explained that the pilot online course evaluations "will be folded into a larger consideration of the methods and means of course evaluations." The Faculty Council will engage in a full review of the entire process next fall. He noted that the current evaluation forms have been in place for about 15 years now.

In an interview on Monday, Davis put forth four questions he thinks the Council should consider throughout the process: (1) should there be the same evaluation form for all classes? Davis suggested that the COR could modify forms across departments to evaluate the advising component of a first-year seminar class while doling out a different form for laboratory or tutorial courses. (2) Is an online evaluation a better way to secure student response anonymity? He noted that some professors, especially in language courses with handed-in workbook assignments, might be able to recognize students' handwriting. (3) What will the new participation rate be? Will Middlebury see a 75 percent rate like Bates and Wellesley, or will it continue closer to 90 percent? And lastly, (4) what is the best way of getting a high response? Davis acknowledged that some students may fill out the forms in the middle of the night together with their friends and submit less-than-thoughtful responses.

But he suspects most of the online evaluations will be completed by students alone, in the afternoon and evening.

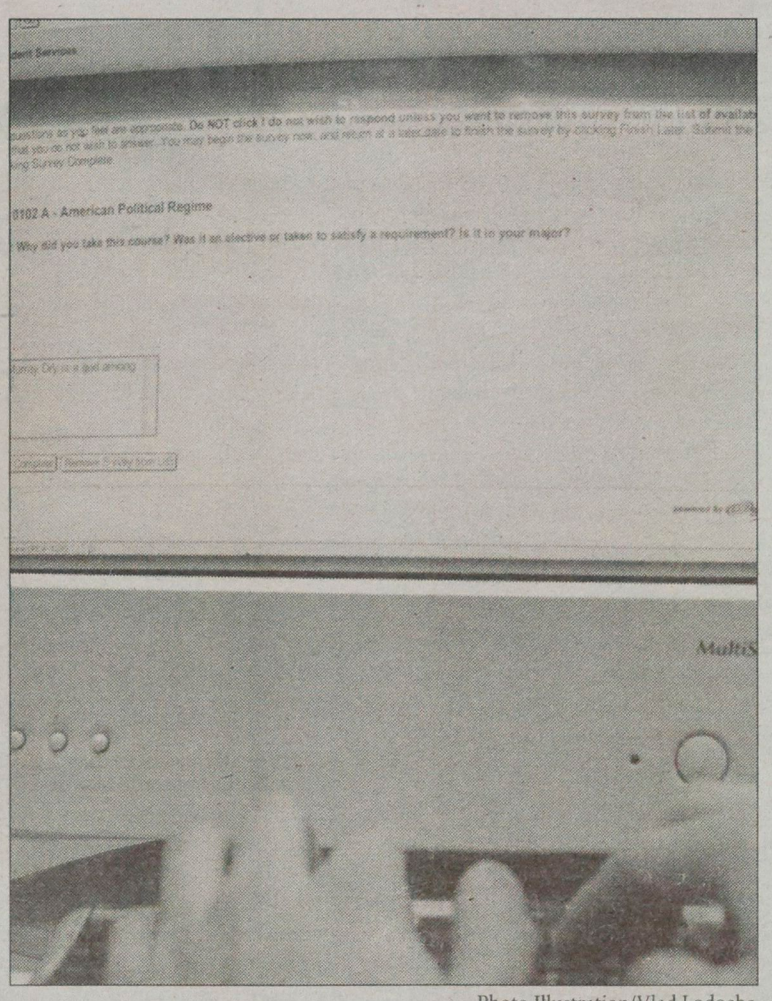

8102 A - American Political Regime
Why did you take this course? Was it an elective or taken to satisfy a requirement? Is it in your major?

Photo Illustration/Vlad Lodoaba

The online course evaluation pilot aims to eliminate the crammed final day of class by allowing students to fill out the forms on their own time.

Voter turnout reaches record low

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

they never saw any of the candidates. "They both wasted so many resources," said first-year Aysegul Savas, referring to the flyers and campaign materials distributed by both candidates, "and I never met either of the [them]." Savas says she did not vote in light of her frustration.

Having weathered the elections, both Jacobi and Woodward are now feeling the pressure of having only a week to prepare before the end of the academic year.

Jacobi, determined to fulfill his campaign promise of reuniting students and SGA, is working quickly to appoint cabinet members and cut unnecessary posts or committees, if necessary. "I don't see myself making too many changes to the structure, but I'm going to talk with a lot of members of the current Senate and cabinet to discern if any committees were superfluous or too broad," he said.

While Jacobi says he learned a great deal speaking to students across campus, his priorities have not changed. "I still think the two most important goals of the SGA this year should be to improve its relationship with the student body and to improve the social life for students on the weekends," said Jacobi.

Although Woodward's co-chair in Community Council, Dean of Student Affairs Ann Hanson, is currently on leave, he says that he will be "contacting Dean Hanson over the next few months to discuss ideas, expectations, agendas, etc." In the meantime he is working largely with current SCCOCC Erin Sullivan '04, whom he says "has been and will remain a great resource throughout this hurried process."

While social life issues are still Woodward's priority, he is currently focusing on two early efforts before the end of the semester — saving the "Can't Use Paper Plastic or Styrofoam" (CUPPS) program and drumming up excitement for the SGA.

Speaking on CUPPS, which provided reusable plastic mugs to first-year students but was recently discontinued due to lack of funding, Woodward recognized, "it's quite the long shot, [but] I'd love it for them to be available for the incoming first-year class."

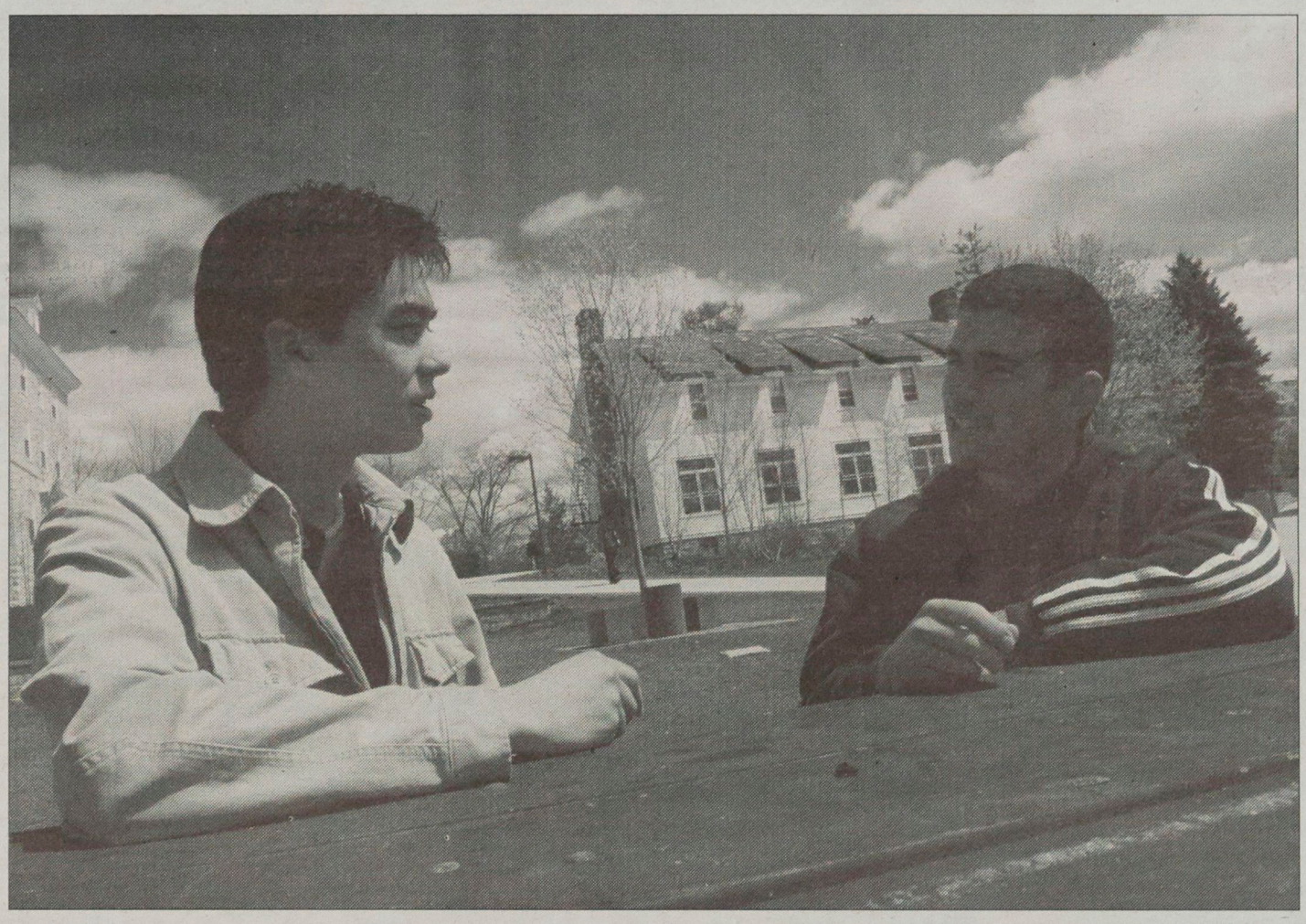
He is also committed to identifying interested and devoted representatives for next year's SGA and Community Council. "We are in desperate need of enthusiastic and dedicated representatives and cabinet members, and I'm afraid that we won't get them if we sit aside and let the standard application, voting and appointment processes run their respective courses," he said.

Both individuals plan to meet and are looking forward to working together next fall for a productive year. "I'm anxious to begin working with Andrew," Woodward said. "Our agendas overlap quite a bit and so it will be interesting to see how things precipitate, especially because I think we have some different ideas as to how some things will be executed."

Jacobi added of Woodward, "I think he brings some very interesting perspectives to the table, and I really am looking forward to working with him."

We all seem to wish that things could be better here at Midd, but only one third of us really care who ends up being the student with the greatest ability to do something about it.

— Jimmy Hickey



Vlad Lodoaba

Following the announcement of last week's election results, J. S. Woodward '06 and Andrew Jacobi '04 chat outside Ross Dining Hall. They will have only one week to begin planning for next year's administration before final exams begin.

public safety log

APRIL 26, 2004 TO MAY 3, 2004

DATE	TIME	INCIDENT	CATEGORY	LOCATION	DISPOSITION
4/26/04	12:35 a.m.	Drug Violation	Marijuana	Johnson	Referred to Commons Dean
4/26/04	6:00 p.m.	Theft	Photograph Composite	Brackett (Tavern)	No Suspects
4/27/04	8 - 11:30 p.m.	Theft	Cell phone and wallet	Hillcrest Road	No Suspects
4/28/04	11:50 p.m.	Drug Violation	Marijuana	Milliken	Referred to Commons Dean
4/ 30 / 04	9:13 p.m.	Alcohol	Posession by Minor	Pearsons	Case Closed
5/1/04	2:40 a.m.	Collision Hit and Run	Vehicle / Vehicle	Old Chapel Road	Referred to Commons Dean
5/1/04	2:16 p.m.	Vandalism	Unknown	Proctor	No Suspects
5/2/04	12:44 a.m.	Alcohol	Posession by Minor	Prescott (ADP)	Referred to Commons Dean
5/2/04	1:06 a.m.	Unlawful Trespass	Unknown	Unknown	Case Closed
5/2/04	2:22 a.m.	Unlawful Trespass	Unknown	Ridgeline Road	Case Closed
5/2/04	6:30 p.m.	Collision Hit and Run	No Category	McCullough	No Suspects
5/3/04	1:00 a.m.	Vandalism	Appliance	Prescott (ADP)	Referred to Dean of Student Affairs

COLLEGE SHORTS

BY ANDREA GISSING

Ohio U. dean pleads guilty to cocaine charge

Ohio University's Assistant Dean for Student Affairs Development Richard Harrison pleaded guilty to possession of cocaine Tuesday at his pre-trial. He will receive intervention instead of a conviction.

Harrison was arrested on Sept. 20, 2003, on a charge of disorderly conduct. He was taken to jail and when searched, police officers found what appeared to be a bag of cocaine in his right shoe.

Harrison will be placed in a three-year rehabilitation program. The presiding judge said he would not accept Harrison's guilty plea unless he failed the program.

The university was aware of the court proceedings that took place two weeks ago, but awaits the final decision before making any determination about Harrison's employment, said university officials.

Source: U-Wire.com

NCAA holds student athletes accountable

The National Collegiate Athletic Association (NCAA) approved academic reforms that will penalize colleges starting in 2006 if athletes perform too poorly in the classroom. Athletes will have to maintain a graduation rate above a still-undetermined level for colleges to avoid punishment.

The graduation "cut line" will be the same in all sports.

NCAA Present Myles Brand said that graduation goals for each college are now being calculated. This fall, every college will be notified as to how much at risk they would have been had new standards been in place.

Colleges whose rates fall below the "cut line" will receive warning letters beginning in 2006-7. In 2007-8, consistently poor performing teams could begin losing scholarships, and in 2008-9 post season eligibility and money from NCAA tournaments could be in jeopardy.

Source: *The New York Times*

Comm. college students win funds

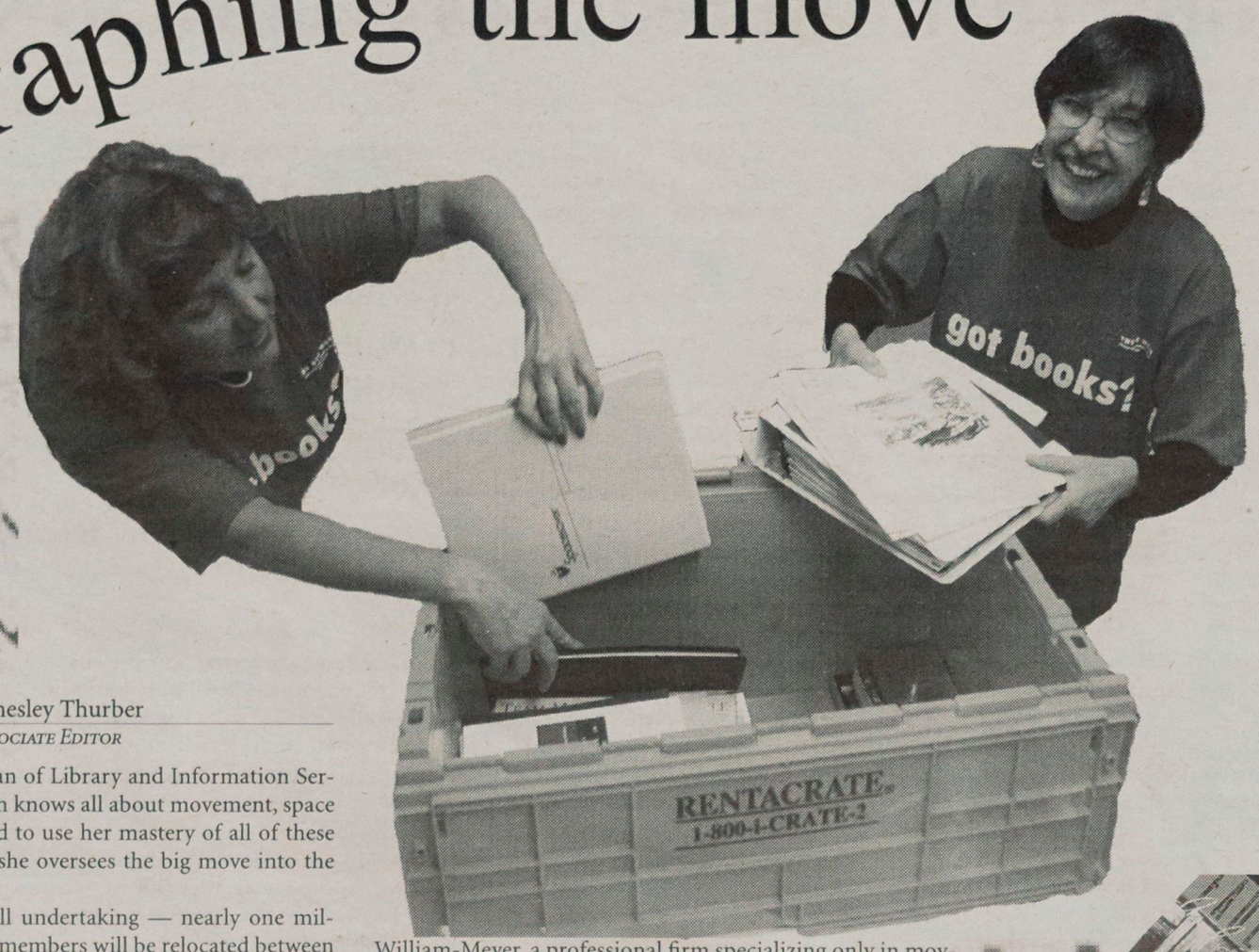
A total of 27 community college students from across the nation will receive "unparalleled" scholarships to complete their education at four-year schools, officials from the Loudoun-based Jack Kent Cooke Foundation announced on Monday. Each student will receive as much as $30,000 a year for tuition, room and board at any four-year institution in the country. The foundation has set aside a total of $1.4 million for the group.

The winners of the Cooke scholarships come from 17 states and eight foreign countries. They were chosen from 863 students nominated by 559 community colleges. Each has recently — or is about to — finish a two-year associate degree.

This is the first year since the foundation's formation in 2002 that all of the money allocated for undergraduates will go to community college students who are transferring to four-year institutions. Officials from the foundation said that they are focusing on students from community colleges because traditional financial aid programs largely ignore the growing group.

Source: *The Washington Post*

Choreographing the move



By Chesley Thurber
Associate Editor

A former dancer, Dean of Library and Information Services Barbara Doyle-Wilch knows all about movement, space and timing. She will need to use her mastery of all of these in the next few weeks as she oversees the big move into the new library.

The move is no small undertaking — nearly one million volumes and 70 staff members will be relocated between May 19 and June 11. All of Starr Library's 800,000 books, periodicals, microfilm and other materials will be transferred along with the Information Technology Services offices and helpdesk, the Sunderland video and audio libraries and the writing center.

Doyle-Wilch will not be alone in overseeing the move. Jeff Rehbach, special projects manager and conductor of the Middlebury Community Chorus and College Chamber Singers will be in charge of orchestrating the logistics.

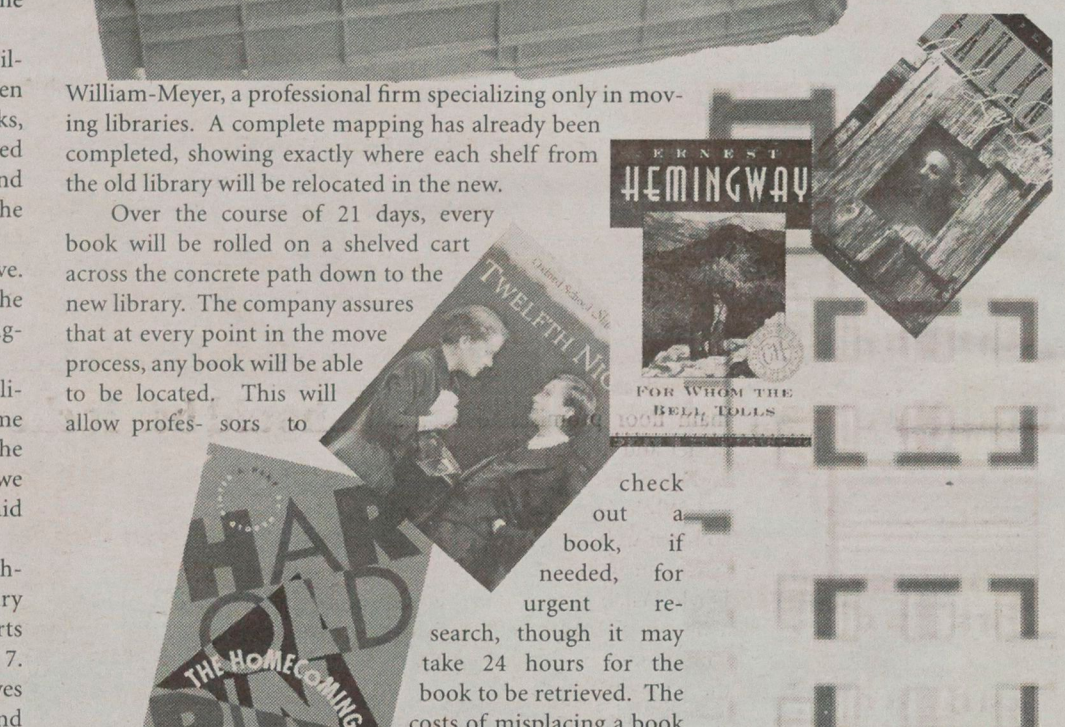
But before a single book can be stacked in the new library, construction must be finished. As of last week, some painting, flooring and a comprehensive cleaning of the building still needed to be completed. "One of the things we don't want to do is move books back into a dirty place," said Doyle-Wilch.

While the construction workers scurry to put the finishing touches on the building, librarians and student library employees have flooded the campus in blue and red T-shirts asking students and faculty to return their books by May 7. Having as many books returned and replaced on the shelves of Starr Library before the move will make transferring and distributing the books in the new library much easier, said Doyle-Wilch.

To inspire faculty to return their books early, she, College President John McCardell and several other senior administrators wore the T-shirts to April's faculty meeting. "It started a little buzz," she commented.

Those who do return their books by Friday will be rewarded with a T-shirt of their own — at least until supplies of this trendy new fashion item run out.

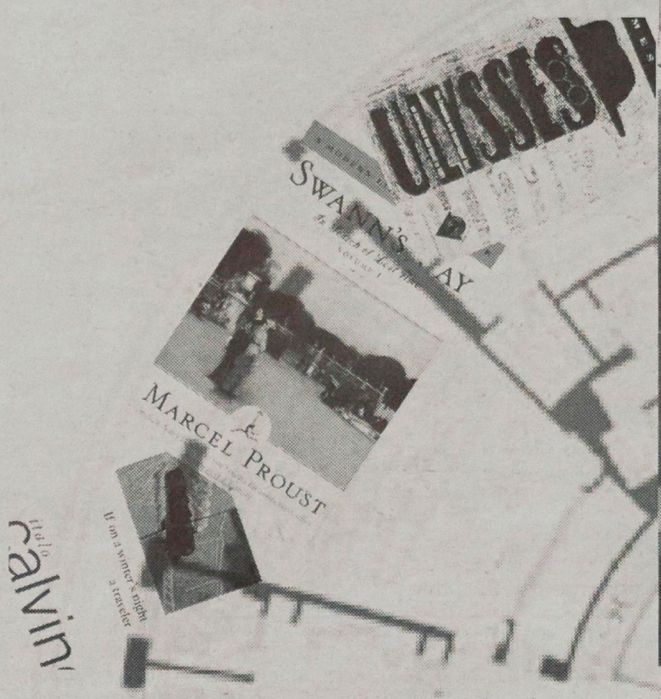
For the actual transfer process, the College has hired William-Meyer, a professional firm specializing only in moving libraries. A complete mapping has already been completed, showing exactly where each shelf from the old library will be relocated in the new.



Over the course of 21 days, every book will be rolled on a shelved cart across the concrete path down to the new library. The company assures that at every point in the move process, any book will be able to be located. This will allow professors to check out a book, if needed, for urgent research, though it may take 24 hours for the book to be retrieved. The costs of misplacing a book in the process is high, said Doyle-Wilch, as it would be nearly impossible to find that book again.

This is not Doyle-Wilch's first experience moving libraries. She has been involved in the relocation of the library at Augustan College in Illinois and of a law

Top: Dean of Library and Information Services Barbara Doyle-Wilch and her assistant, Tess Deddo, load books into a crate for moving. The actual packing and moving of books will be executed by a library moving specialist firm, William Meyer.
Left: Egbert Starr Library's 800,000 volume collection will soon be moved to the new library. Plans to renovate Starr into the Axinn Center for Literary and Culural Studies will be discussed by the trustees this weekend.



library in Colorado. One of the biggest challenges, she said, will be keeping people who work in the library out of the way of the moving process. Vacations have been timed to coincide with the event and other staff members will temporarily relocate before moving into their new offices. Doyle-Wilch sees few other potential obstacles other than that "it would be a bummer if it rained."

The new facility will offer a dramatically different library experience. The new building will be much larger, have more natural light and be a far more open space. The top floor will be reserved as a quiet zone, but the main floor promises to be much busier and noisier with a snack bar and many group study spaces.

While fans of Starr who took comfort in its quiet, dark, enclosed spaces may find this disorienting, Doyle-Wilch says, "This is how a library should be. It should be stimulating and contemplating at the same time."

This is how a library should be. It should be stimulating and contemplating at the same time.

- Barbara Doyle-Wilch

The opening of the new library will kick off Friday with a "ribbon cutting ceremony" to kick off the move. The idea began when McCardell suggested that students, staff and faculty all pitch-in to move the books from one library to another.

According to his plan, they would form a continuous line from Starr Library to the new library, passing the books from one person to another down the line. The idea quickly proved unfeasible given the complexity of the organization and sheer number of books to be moved.

A line of students, staff and faculty will still be formed at Friday's event. But instead of passing 800,000 books, they will only pass 12. Members of the College community, including each commons, the dean of faculty, chairman of the board of trustees and representatives from the staff, language schools and graduate programs, have each selected a book to be dedicated in the new library.

The procession will be accompanied by brass fanfare. Following the ceremony will be a community picnic on the lawn outside the library with entertainment from Circus Smirkus and music performed by "The Green Gold Groove."

But Friday's ceremonies only mark the beginning of celebrations for the library's opening. The formal dedication will occur next fall with a week-long celebration and the annual Clifford symposium, this year to be entitled "Way with Words: A Celebration of Libraries." Speakers will include Janet Murray, author of "Hamlet on the Holodeck," and Siva Vaidhynathan, author of "Anarchy in the Library." An honorary degree will also be given to Vartan Gregorian, who has served as president of the New York Public Libraries as well as Brown University and the Carnegie Foundation.

The week will end with a performance by Bandaloop, a group of entertainers/artists who combine dance with rock climbing. Bandaloop will dance while climbing the walls of the new library.

For Doyle-Wilch, this could not be a more appropriate conclusion. "Dance, a new building. What more could I ask for?"

Top: The opening of the yet-to-be-named new library will be celebrated this Friday with the dedication of 12 books.
Left: LIS staff, excited about the move ahead, model T-shirts encouraging students and faculty to return their books by May 7. Students who do may also receive T-shirts, until they run out.

Photos by Vlad Lodoaba

localnews

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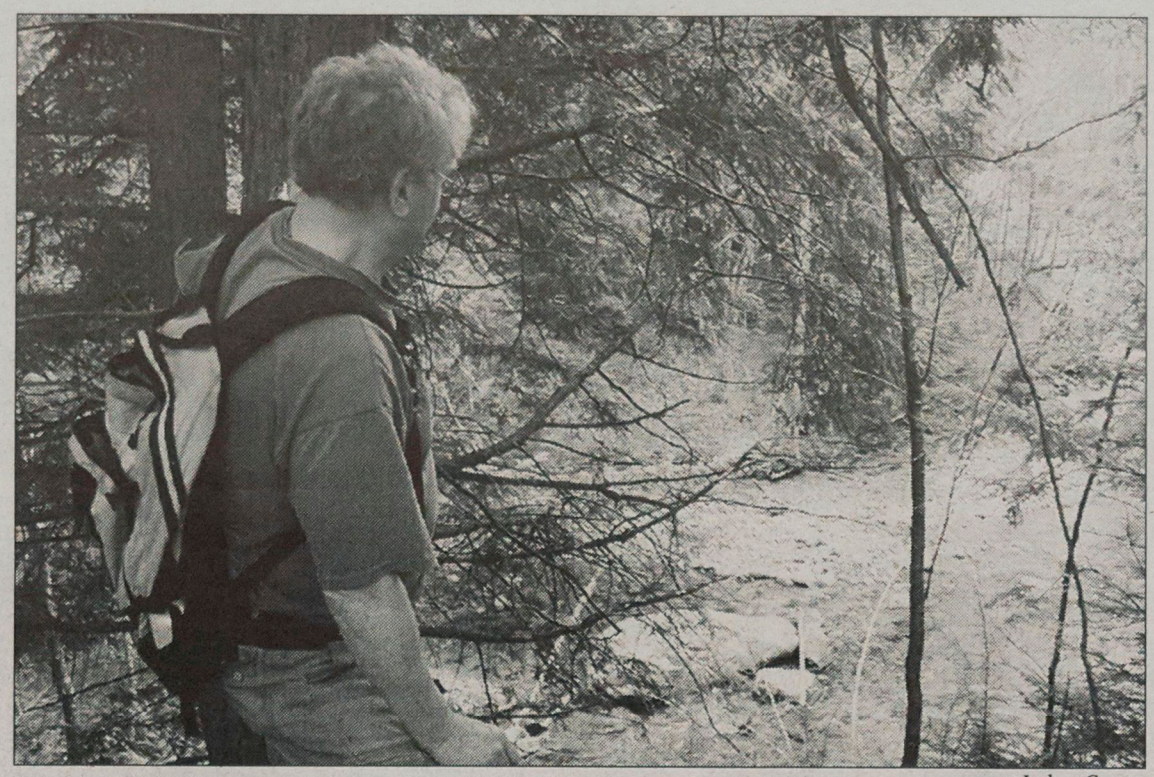
Spirited minister turns words into actions

By Joshua Carson
Local News Editor

The Rev. Paul Bortz drives a Honda Insight, a hybrid car that runs on both battery power and gasoline. And if you believe what is written on his Vermont state license plate, it gets "70 mpg." He lives in a 400-square-foot loft in the barn behind his fully furnished and heated house. He has electricity there, but that is about it. He gets his water from a spiket, his warmth from a space heater and his news from newspapers and academic journals. No television, no Internet. Oh, and he just lost phone service when his house was struck by lightning. But Bortz is far from concerned. He is more troubled about the future — about the lives that his children and grandchildren will face if radical changes in energy consumption do not occur in the next 20 years.

Bortz is a rare individual who is able to bridge the disconnect between the ideal environmental vision and his actual lifestyle. He lives according to the philosophy that he preaches and estimates he has cut his fossil fuel consumption by 80 percent by moving into his barn. "It's not complex. I don't need all that," he said. Now settled as a Unitarian Universalist minister, he is a community minister, "speaking out for earth and creation". But his environmental passion began eight years ago when he was first exposed to the dangerous implications of global climate change. He was sitting in his living room with Steve Kyle, a government physicist and eminent climatologist, and asked him to talk about climate change, a subject unfamiliar to Bortz. "It's not going to affect us," Kyle said, "but it will affect our children."

This conversation struck Bortz and he began to research current literature and educate himself about the issues, soon realizing how bad the situation really was. In no time in history have the environmental stakes been so high and the response so low, he says. European and Japanese leaders understand the issue but the United States remains obstinate in regulating energy usage and controlling consumption.



Joshua Carson

Paul Bortz gazes across a stream as he hikes on the Interfaith path of Spirit in Nature located in Ripton, Vt.

As a member of the clergy, he soon realized that religious institutions were not doing much to bring the issues to their congregations. He created Spirit in Nature (SPIN) as a means of promoting global warming awareness. According to the organization's newsletter, SPIN is "a place of interconnecting paths where people of diverse spiritual traditions may walk, worship, meet, meditate and promote education and action towards better stewardship of this sacred earth."

This Unitarian minister believes in more than just faith. He believes in the earth, in nature and in environmental activism. The interconnecting paths, which run through a 70-acre patch of land in Ripton, are a place to slow down and reflect. In a world in which people push themselves to extremes, Bortz hopes that walking the paths allows individuals to connect with nature and emerge "renewed, ready to make a difference with [their] faith for an environmentally safer world."

SPIN is headed by Bortz but has an intimate relationship with the College. The land is leased for $2,000 per year from the College, and of the 11 trustees, five are Middlebury students. A student wrote the SPIN handbook and the majority of volunteers come from the College, either on their own or through orientation trips like Volunteer Preview.

Bortz believes the United States is headed in the wrong direction, not just environmentally, but also politically — a stance further reinforced now that his 23-year-old son Andrew is serving in Iraq. Bortz describes his son as a gentle, generous and sensitive young man who felt like he had nothing else to do. He struggled in school and volunteered for the Marine Corps shortly before Sept. 11. Andrew was in Baghdad for the invasion and now drives an ammunition truck "somewhere outside of Baghdad." Security concerns do not allow Andrew to tell his father exactly where he is stationed. "It is awful, just awful for the family," Bortz laments.

"But the gift that I got from him," Bortz said, "was that I think he really made me an activist for peace." Inspired by his son and what he considers an unjust war, Bortz started another organization, Vermont Boycott for Peace, which outlines the cost of the war in Iraq and encourages people to boycott corporations like Coca-Cola, Kraft, GE, Ford and AT&T that support President Bush through re-election campaign contributions.

"The aim of this global boycott for peace is to apply direct economic pressure on the most influential corporate contributors to the Bush administration," according to the website, vermontboycottforpeace.org. The organization has picketed outside of the Middlebury Maplefields convenience store to protest Exxon-Mobile, a corporation that Vermont Boycott for Peace cites as a main contributor to the Bush administration and a corporation that stands to benefit greatly from the war in Iraq. It is working to educate consumers and encourage them to voice dissent through purchasing power.

Bortz sometimes finds his work depressing, as it is difficult to see returns on the time he invests in his environmental and political endeavors. Although he is a minister, he is struggling to keep faith in the future state of the earth and politics but hopes that his examples will, nevertheless, inspire others.

Even Vermont suffers from bad air

By Greg Duggan
Staff Writer

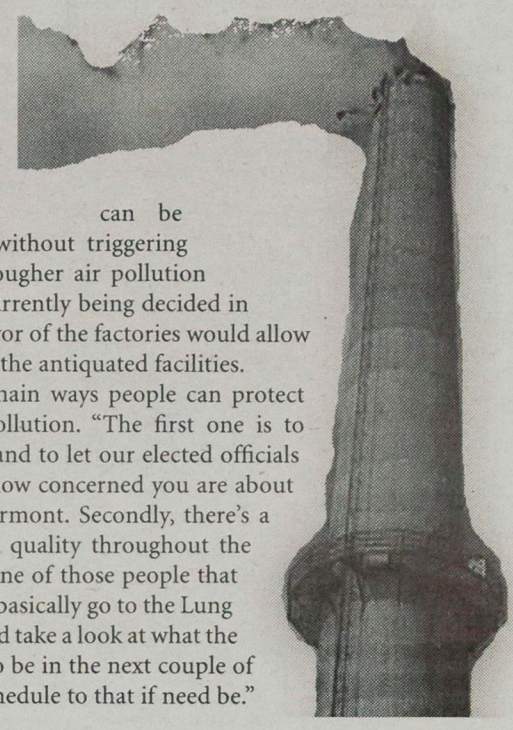
On April 29, the American Lung Association released its fifth annual State of the Air report, which contained data that has caused some concern for the Green Mountain State. "Vermont has an air pollution problem. We tend to think that because we live in Vermont, the air and water are pristine, and that is indeed not the case," said Robert Uerz, president and CEO of the American Lung Associaton of Vermont.

For the first time, the American Lung Association considered air quality in terms of not only ozone pollution, but also particle pollution. The report classified the 25 worst cities and counties throughout the nation in both categories. Vermont managed to avoid the list. Even so, none of the sites analyzed in Vermont cracked into the list of the best 25, and trends show that the state's ozone quality has declined. Bennington and Chittenden counties were the two that were graded. Bennington fell from last year's C to a D and Chittenden from a B to a C.

Equally troublesome for Vermonters are the levels of particle pollution in the state. The state received a B grade, but because this was the first year data on particle pollution was released — there is no way to determine how current pollution compares to past years. Particles can carry heavy metals such as mercury and are dangerous because, as Uerz explained, "they can reach deep into the lungs, and there's even research to indicate that they can interface directly with blood cells." People who suffer from asthma, chronic bronchitis or a number of other lung diseases are at the greatest risk from particle pollution.

Within Vermont, Uerz named automobiles as a leading cause of particle pollution. Outside of the state, however, in New York and the Midwest, power plants and factories create a large amount of particle pollution that winds carry to the Adirondacks and Green Mountains.

Potential rollbacks in the Clean Air Act could make these factories even more dangerous to Vermont. Uerz explained that when the Clean Air Act went into effect in 1970, it anticipated that aging plants would eventually go out of use or be forced to update their facilities. Now, however, Uerz said, "What has been proposed by the [Bush] Administration has been to basically allow a lot more flexibility in terms of what improvements can be made to these plants without triggering the requirements for tougher air pollution control." The issue is currently being decided in court and a ruling in favor of the factories would allow them to continue using the antiquated facilities.



Uerz named two main ways people can protect themselves from air pollution. "The first one is to get involved," he said, "and to let our elected officials know how you feel or how concerned you are about the quality of air in Vermont. Secondly, there's a way to monitor the air quality throughout the summer, so if you are one of those people that are at high risk you can basically go to the Lung Association's website and take a look at what the air quality's predicted to be in the next couple of days and adjust your schedule to that if need be."

House debates extending Megan's law

Proposal would alert communities about sex offenders

By Katherine Doorley
Staff Writer

Shopping for clothes, downloading music and movies, checking the news — each of these tasks can currently be performed via the internet, but the Web may soon provide another important service to Vermonters. The state of Vermont may soon join 44 other states in publishing the names of convicted sex offenders online. A bill currently sitting in the House Judiciary Committee is expected to be submitted to the House on Thursday and, if passed, would create an online directory listing the names, photographs and personal information of certain convicted sex offenders as determined by the state Department of Corrections.

Vermont's sex offender registry should be on the Internet.
— Gov. Douglas

The Vermont law would be an expansion of the state's current version of Megan's Law. The law was named after Megan Kanka, a 7-year-old New Jersey girl who was killed in 1994 after she was lured into a neighbor's home and sexually assaulted. In the aftermath of the attack it was discovered that the man who killed Megan had been convicted in at least two prior cases involving sexual assault.

Megan's Law, first passed in New Jersey and later by the U.S. Congress, provides for the registration of sex offenders, but does not require states to notify residents when convicted sex offenders move into a neighborhood. Many states, such as California, have their own versions of the law that provide for notification via the Internet or local law enforcement. The Vermont proposal is in line with these statutes.

The Vermont bill as written proposes to "require a risk assessment of sex offenders prior to their release into the community. Public access to registry information upon request would be expanded and the level of community notification would be based upon a determination of whether the offender poses a low, moderate or high risk of reoffending."

Finally, the law provides for different degrees of notification based upon the perceived risk of a repeat offense. For low-risk offenders known victims are to be notified and upon request the registration status — that is whether or not an individual is listed in the State Registry — will be divulged. For those considered to be a moderate risk, known victims will be notified of the release and whereabouts of the offenders and those making requests for information will be given verbal notification of the name, known aliases, description, address and nature of conviction for the offenders. Finally, for those determined to pose a high risk, there will be an Internet posting of the same information provided for moderate risk offenders as well as a current photo and descriptions and license plate numbers for any vehicles the offender is known to possess.

Governor Jim Douglas '72 has praised the House bill, stating, "Now is the time for Legislature to join me in reaffirming and strengthening the rights of families all over Vermont to protect their children and neighborhoods. Vermont's sex offender registry should be on the Internet and include the notification of communities when dangerous sex offenders are present."

Opponents argue that the laws have the tendency to promote vigilantism by making the information available to anyone who requests it. In addition, it is argued that these laws make sex offenders vulnerable to further punishment for crimes they have already been convicted of and punished for, as well as deprive those convicted of sex crimes of many of the civil liberties encased in the Constitution, including the 14th Amendment right to privacy. Nonetheless, versions of Megan's Law similar to the one under consideration in Vermont have been found to be legal and constitutional by the Supreme Court.

Given the public support for the bill and the lobbying efforts of many individuals affected in one way or another by sex crimes, it is likely that the bill will be reported out of the Judiciary Committee and then pass through the full House sometime later this year. When this happens, Vermont residents will gain access to even more information via the Internet, this time for the expressed purpose of protecting their families from potentially dangerous criminals.

MVAA honors contributions of graduating senior

By Scott Bulua
Online Editor

As a young Boy Scout growing up in Nepal, Darshan Shrestha '04 lugged around a first-aid kit he had made from an old Band-Aid box. When friends injured themselves on camping trips, he was eager to clean up their wounds.

Shrestha's continuing passion for emergency medicine led him to join the Middlebury Volunteer Ambulance Association (MVAA) during his sophomore year at Middlebury. Now a senior, Shrestha was honored with the association's President's Award last Sunday at an awards ceremony at Rosie's restaurant.

The award is presented annually to the member that "by virtue of his or her membership has the greatest impact on the association," according to MVAA President Wedge Murdoch. Awards were also given for excellence in training, response and driving.

Shrestha, who now devotes around 30 hours a week to working as an EMT for the volunteer ambulance corps, is "just a fantastic guy," said Murdoch. "He's just super ready to give of himself and his time."

Shrestha's passion for emergency medicine dates back to his childhood in Nepal. Aside from attending a Catholic school, Shrestha was a Boy Scout and received first aid training through the organization. When he left Nepal for a United World College school in New Mexico, he found himself involved in their outdoors program and soon enrolled in a Wilderness First Responder course.

When he arrived at Middlebury, Shrestha learned that the town had a volunteer ambulance squad and wanted to again involve himself in emergency medicine. He spent the summer in Provo, Utah, gaining EMT certification at the Utah Fire and Rescue Academy.

After returning to Middlebury, he applied to join the MVAA squad and was accepted, something he describes as a dream come true. "I just loved the excitement of it," he said. "The College is kind of like a bubble, and it was a good way to get exposed to the town doing something I loved doing." After joining the organization, Shrestha dove headfirst into the organization and quickly rose through its ranks. Most recently he gained EMT-Intermediate certification, which allows him to give IVs and administer drugs.

"Usually there are two or three [college students] who really make this their prime interest outside of what goes on on campus," said Murdoch. "And Darsh is one of those guys. He's just sort of interwoven into all our activities"

According to Murdoch, the MVAA is able to continue as a volunteer organization because so many college students are interested in volunteering for it. "Fifty percent of our membership does not live in Middlebury," he said. "Therefore Middlebury College students are at a premium. We couldn't get along without them."

Vlad Lodoaba
Darshan Shrestha '04 has passionately devoted himself to MVAA throughout his tenure at Middlebury College.

College students in the MVAA are required to work 60 hours a month, and Shrestha goes way above the requirement, working two 12-hour shifts a week and responding to radio calls when his help is needed.

Still, he insists that the MVAA, which has served as a family for him during his time in Middlebury, has given more to him than he could ever give to it. Among his fondest memories over the past three years at Middlebury are eating with ambulance crews at Rosie's and becoming part of their personal lives.

An economics major with a minor in physics and pre-med requirements fulfilled, Shrestha will be doing management consulting in Connecticut next year but is considering going to medical school. "We're going to miss him a lot," said Murdoch.

Rural Realities

By Crystal Belle

After a year-and-a-half run, my column is finally coming to an end. What does one say in a final column? Au revoir? Adios? I will definitely miss writing about my weekly urban sightings in rural Vermont. I have discussed everything from break dancing to black hair, from ovenbirds to politics. Anything and everything has been a source of discussion for me, as I learned more about Vermont than I ever imagined possible.

Late last night, while I attempted to figure out what I would write about my final week as a Middlebury student and *Campus* columnist, there was a haunting sound coming from my window or door. I couldn't figure it out. Sitting on my uncomfortable dorm-room chair, I ignored the sound and gazed stoically at my laptop. The sound persisted, this time louder, scarier. Suddenly, the sound seemed to be directly behind me — I jumped up, ready for action. To my surprise, the ghost I was sure of was not there. So, I opened my bedroom door, sure that he was in the hallway. He wasn't. Hearing the squeaking eerie sound again, I listened intently, realizing that my ghost was nothing more than chirping morning birds — it was 5 a.m. after all. I burst into hysterics, realizing that after four years of living in Vermont, I am still more used to hearing police sirens at 5 a.m. than the sweet sound of birds. It's true — I will never be a ruralite, as much as I have assimilated to Vermont's culture. A New Yorker thinks of industry before nature and frowns before smiling. These traits continue to formulate my instinct and psyche. However, trust that Middlebury has changed my New Yorker extremes.

Therefore, I leave with an ode to Middlebury College as a whole. I thank you all for the profound intellectual discussion, which really made my experience here special. As a revolutionary, a poet and an activist, I found my place in this liberal land. I was never harshly judged for my radical views and highly political poetry. Instead, others befriended me because of it, wanting to learn about my views and thoughts, genuinely interested in finding out who I was. Was this really happening in a place where most people had never even heard of slam poetry? Did over 100 people really purchase my poetry album? Yes. A dream was being realized, and being realized quickly. Students and members of the faculty and administration embraced me, and everything that came along with me, which is a lot. Part of me was always in Brooklyn, New York and the Caribbean. The remaining portion is here in good ol' Vermont, where the cheese is amazing and the maple syrup phenomenal. So many pieces of my puzzle came together here, got to know each other here, and will forever live here, even after I am long gone.

I leave with a piece of each of you. I leave with a place I now refer to as home, along with my Brooklyn roots. I leave with a smile and a frown all at once, not knowing when I will live a dream again. But at least a rural dream was mine, and I will hold it dearly in the palm of my city hands.

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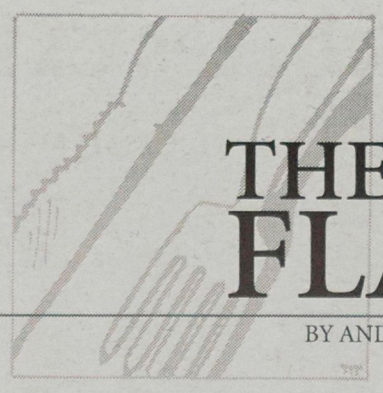

THE LOCAL FLAVOR

BY ANDIE GISSING & PETER YORDAN

RESTAURANT
LA VILLA MEDITERRANEAN BISTRO & PIZZERIA
LOCATION
3762 SHELBURNE ROAD
HOURS
MON-THURS: 11-9, FRI-SAT:11-10, SUN: 4-10
FEATURES
ITALIAN, PIZZA

Nestled in the same complex as a nail salon, a North Face outlet and a gym, La Villa can easily be passed over by diners looking for an upscale eatery. However, the low-key Italian bistro and pizzeria, located on Route 7 just north of Shelburne provides an excellent alternative for hungry Midd-kids who would prefer to not spend time and excessive amounts of money in Burlington.

La Villa may not have the elegance of the Starry Night Cafe, but what it lacks in atmosphere it makes up in reasonably priced, generously portioned food. No entree tops $20 and most pasta dishes flirt with $10. In addition to standard Italian and Mediterranean fare — tapas, appetizers, pastas, veal and seafood — its menu offers a range of gourmet pizzas with names like "Greek Spinach Special," "Spinnocoli," "Smokehouse Pie" and "Olympia."

In fine Italian fashion, the meal started with freshly baked bread served with olive oil flavored with sun-dried tomatoes. The friendly waiters quickly brought out drinks — wines from their well stocked cellar — and kept the breadbasket full as we poured over the selection and took in our surroundings. La Villa is cozy, if not especially fancy. Abstract paintings lining the walls provide splashes of color, and the menus feature cute drawings from local children — our favorite was one featuring a shark who declared that it was hungry for pizza while a fish declared that there was a shark nearby. La Villa doesn't attract the hip, youthful crowd of Church Street. Be prepared to share the restaurant with families and elderly couples rather than twentysomethings.

The restaurant manages to be inventive without being chic. It doesn't dole out teeny portions of delicately arranged French-sounding dishes. What you see on the menu is what you get, and you get a lot of it. An order of Prince Edward Island mussels from the tapas menu ($6) doesn't come on a small plate but in a large bowl overflowing with the steaming shellfish, cooked in white wine with lemon and garlic. Equally impressive are the salads. We tried the Greek and the spinach salads, both of which left us regretting that we had ordered entrées.

Once the main course arrived, however, the heaping salads disappeared from our thoughts. La Villa's Smoked Alfredo was a creamy blend of meats and spinach pasta, with the taste of woodsmoke in every bite. The Chicken Picatta, served with a lemon caper sauce, was refreshing, light where the Smoked Alfredo was heavy and was finished far too quickly.

No meal is ever complete without desert. Fortunantly, La Villa offers a wide range of deserts, from sorbet to tiramisu. Its signature dish, which our waiter declared "drew crowds," was the Chocolate Obsession, a devilishly rich concoction of different chocolates blended together in one mouth-watering slice of cake.

Middlebury, for all of its surprisingly international dining, suffers from a dearth of acceptable Italian food. La Villa fills that void nicely for those without the patience to traipse through Burlington. If you're looking for somewhere new to take someone special, a fun place to go with a group of friends or a nice place to take your parents over graduation weekend, La Villa is definitely worth checking out.

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DON'T EVER LET GO

Vlad Lodoaba

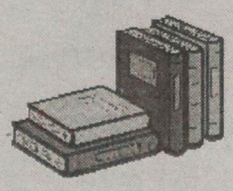
Jake Miller and Nicholas Carrara play with a ballon outside the Blue Hen during last weekend's balmy weather.

great expectations!

The move to the new library begins in just two weeks

got books?

We need as many books returned before then so they can be properly shelved within in the new library. Don't delay!
Return your library materials as soon as you no longer need them.



get a free T-shirt!

While supplies last, you'll qualify as soon as you return all your books, CDs, videos, and anything else you may have checked out from the libraries!

come along and party on Friday, May 7th

4:30 pm, by Old Chapel

Each of the Commons, the President, the Board of Trustees, the Staff Council, Dean of Faculty, Alumni Association, Language Schools and Graduate Programs will give a special book to the new library. Amid brass fanfare (compliments of the Biblio Tones) and a chain of staff, students and faculty, we will pass the books down the hill to the new library to "baptize" its shelves.

5:30 pm, between McCullough and Voter

An all-college **Picnic** with entertainment by the members of **Circus Smirkus** and the indie band **Green Gold Groove**.

The Middlebury Campus

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Contact Betsy Bassin in the Alliance for Civic Engagement office at x3010 or bbassin@midd... for more information!!

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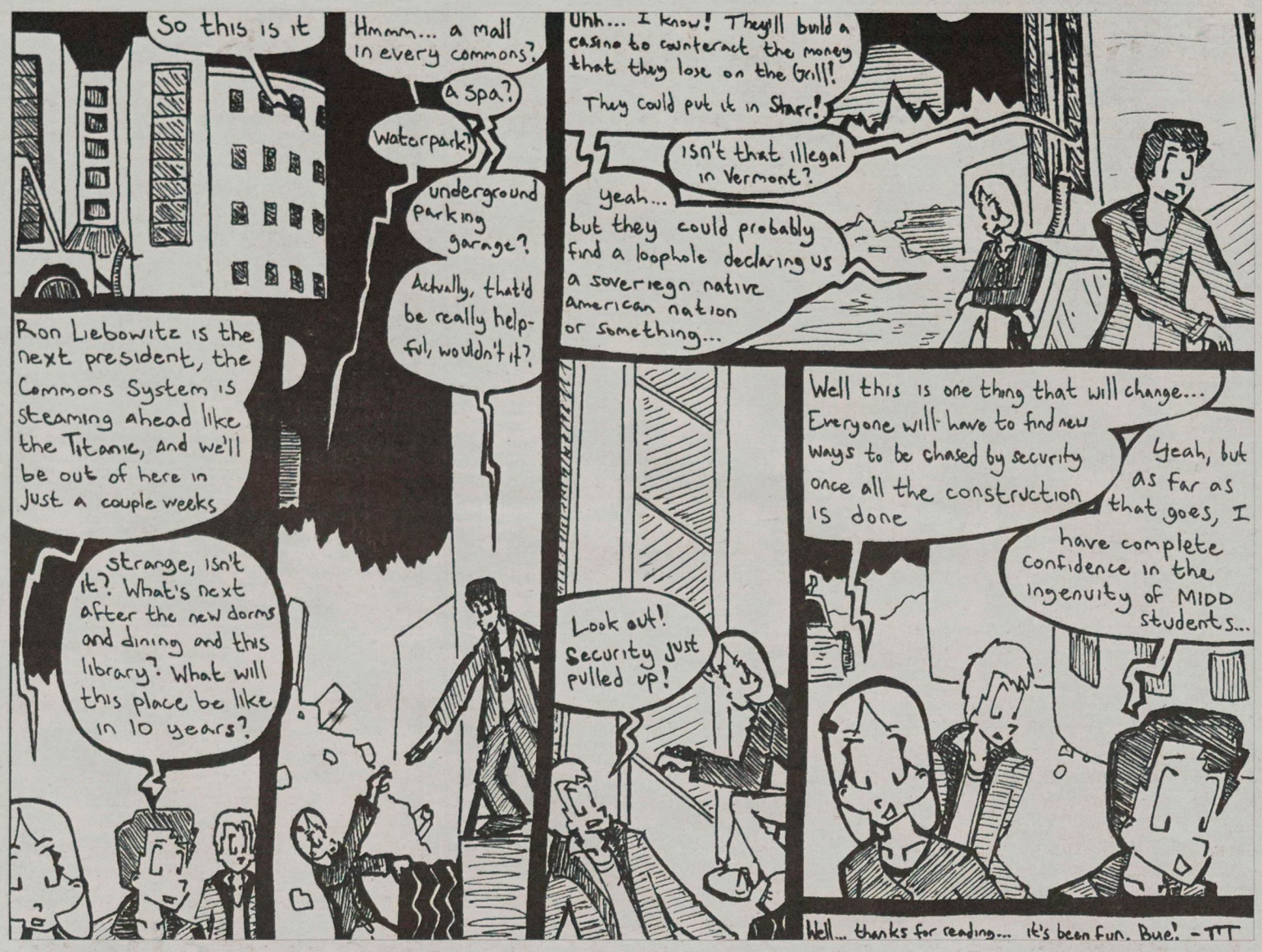
So this is it
Hmmm... a mall in every commons?
a spa?
waterpark?
underground parking garage?
Actually, that'd be really helpful, wouldn't it?
Ron Liebowitz is the next president, the Commons System is steaming ahead like the Titanic, and we'll be out of here in just a couple weeks
Strange, isn't it? What's next after the new dorms and dining and this library? What will this place be like in 10 years?
Look out! Security just pulled up!
Uhh... I know! They'll build a casino to counteract the money that they lose on the Grill!
They could put it in Starr!
isn't that illegal in Vermont?
yeah... but they could probably find a loophole declaring us a soverign native american nation or something...
Well this is one thing that will change... Everyone will have to find new ways to be chased by security once all the construction is done
Yeah, but as far as that goes, I have complete confidence in the ingenuity of MIDD students...
Well... thanks for reading... it's been fun. Bue! -TT

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Editorial

A Concluding Note

"Of the time spent actually writing (as opposed to drinking coffee, smoking cigarettes, pacing, hair-pulling and other writing tics) the majority is spent crafting a perfect lead, and then as the sand rapidly falls through the hourglass, the remaining minutes are a desperate rush towards a destination, usually a quote that seems to strike a concluding note." These words from writing coach Chip Scanlan adorn our office wall. And in some ways, they strike a final chord to our careers as writers, editors and managers of *The Middlebury Campus* newspaper.

After four years, nearly 80 all-nighters and countless cups of caffeinated beverages (chai tea has been a favorite, but we've often settled for Pepsi at 4 a.m.), the mad dash that began in September 2000 now reaches an end.

A lot has changed during our tenure at *The Campus*. On the local front, Middlebury's skyline has evolved and its leadership is on the brink of a major transition. On the national front, the United States suffered a devastating terrorist attack, launched two wars and now enters a crucial election year. We've covered all these stories.

But you need only glance at a September 2000 issue of *The Campus* to realize that some things never change. Alas, the perennial lack of Proctor cups — we've covered that, too.

And we've done it alongside a motivated team of editors who forgo hours of sleep and study time to craft this publication every week. So let our concluding note be a warm thank you to those friends and colleagues.

We leave *The Campus* on the eve of its 100th anniversary. And we hope we leave it better than we found it.

Signing off,
Devin B. Zatorski
Claire M. L. Bourne

OPINIONS SUBMISSION POLICY

The Opinions pages of *The Middlebury Campus* provide a forum for constructive and respectful dialogue on substantive issues. With this in mind, *The Campus* reserves the right to deny publication of all or part of a submission for any reason. This includes, but is not limited to: the making of assertions based on hearsay; the relation of private conversations; the libelous mention of unverifiable events; the use of vulgar language or personal attacks. Any segment of a submitted article that contains any of the aforementioned will be removed before publication. Contributors will be allowed to reference prior articles published in the Opinions section or announcements for the public record. If a reference is made to prior articles, the submission will be considered a letter to the editor. *The Campus* will not accept or print anonymous letters. The opinions expressed by contributors to the Opinions section, as well as reviews, columns, editorial comics and other commentary, are views of the individual contributors and do not necessarily reflect the opinions of the newspaper. *The Campus* welcomes letters to the editor at 250 words or less, or opinions submissions at 800 words or less. Submit works directly to the Opinions Editor, Drawer 30, campus@middlebury.edu or via the paper's website at www.middleburycampus.com. To be considered for publications, submissions must be received by 5 p.m. Tuesday. *The Campus* reserves the right to edit all submissions.

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Letters to the Editor

To the Editor:

I have always been someone who craves consistency. As such, I find myself constantly asking questions. Why put Braille on a drive-through ATM? And speaking of which, why on Earth do they have drive-through liquor stores? But most relevant on campus is, of course, why ban Christmas lights (let alone candles) as "fire-safety hazards" when students are lighting up every night? I mean seriously folks, where is the consistency?

Well, consistency may be on its way thanks to an impending decision by President John McCardell. The decision to ban smoking as a fire-safety hazard is not a new one for an educational institution. According to a study in 2001, over 25 percent of U.S. colleges prohibit smoking in dormitories, including Amherst, Williams and Harvard, which conducted the study.

In 2002, deaths at the Universities of Indiana and Rhode Island were attributed to "smoking materials improperly disposed of." These were preceded by a similarly-caused death at John Carroll University in 2001, and another at Milliken University in 2000. All in all, the Center for Campus Fire Safety lists 41 deaths in on- and off-campus college residence fires since the start of the millennium.

The fact is that, just as President McCardell has pointed out, students can and have lost their lives to carelessly disposed-of cigarette butts. Nobody should have to explain that to a grieving parent, nor should the parent be asked to hear it.

Sincerely,
Mike Yedinak '04.5

To the Editor:

This weekend the Middlebury community showed outstanding support and spirit at the American Cancer Society's first annual Relay for Life at Middlebury College. With an overwhelming attendance of students, faculty and community members, we raised $80,000. As co-chairs of this event, we are deeply grateful, amazed and humbled. We would like to thank the individuals whose dedication and energy helped make this a success.

Thanks to the 25 committee members who took it upon themselves to organize every aspect of the event. To the 48 cancer survivors who led the opening lap, providing us all with tangible reminders that cancer can and is being beaten. To Russ Reilly, Gail Smith, Franklin Dean-Farrar and the rest of the Athletics Department. To Tiffany Sargent, Heather Cronk and Betsy Bassin with ACE. To Doug Adams and Tammy Grant of CCAL. To Julie Hoyenski and the rest of Facilities Management. To Brainerd and Atwater Commons for their support. We'd also like to thank local community members. Thanks to Linda Revel and Kamakshi Murti for their inspirational words. To the American Legion Auxiliary Unit 27. To DJ Larry Brett and family for 19 hours of enthusiasm and music! To Tom Broughtan for donating tents. To the members of the Middlebury Lions Club. To Joseph Carrera Inc. for luminaria sand donations.

Finally, we'd like to thank every person walking with us on Friday night. You truly embodied the spirit of Relay. We look forward to seeing you all (and more!) at Relay for Life 2005!

Sincerely,
Ross Lieb-Lappen '07
Meg Young '07

BannerWeb, SchmannerWeb

February students get the short end of the stick

BannerWeb, you are a sexy, sexy fiend.

I can imagine the administration sitting around contemplating how to make registration less unbelievably stressful than it used to be. We no longer have to wait in line in BiHall, but rather maddeningly attack the computer screens with our half-asleep, seven-o'clock-stained eyes as the damn hourglass destroys our souls. Well, either the hourglass or that little white box with the green tick marks on the bottom of the screen that seems to laugh in my face (yes, I am personifying the box), "Go. Come on. Work. I'll kill you. I will definitely, definitely kill you, you heinous bastard."

These words stayed mostly in my head but some of them came out, and they were echoed by my roommate and my next door neighbor who learned the painful truth that pressing the "Stop" icon on the Internet Explorer toolbar was the worst possible solution to the delay. There was screaming. Also banging, a lot of banging.

In times of need, we try anything. Because we're American… or something.

Some pro-BannerWebbers might ask: "What else do you suggest?" I'd probably say: "Anything." Waking up at seven in the morning and frantically pressing buttons to decide an entire, incredibly expensive semester of your life is not a good idea.

Aside from the ridiculous nature of this program in and of itself, a few groups of students were particularly screwed this time. I can't speak for every other class, but I can speak for mine from experience. And the sophomore Febs of 'da '06.5 were quite perturbed. So perturbed that mass e-mails suggesting "revolutions" and "candlelight vigils" were sent rapidly at 1 a.m., the night before we thought we were maybe not really supposed to possibly maybe register.

In speaking with Alice Rouleau, the associate registrar, the morning that incoming juniors were supposed to register, she informed me that "BannerWeb has always been this way," and that it is now a "system based on credits." Fine. That's fine. But the central problem lies in the fact that most of us Febs were registering with first-years that have been here one semester less than we have. The first-year class is a group of 500 or so students who all registered at the same time as us. Why does that make sense? Even breaking it down, it doesn't make sense. Some of the Febs who got credit their semester off were able to register with the regular sophomores, but why are they all of a sudden penalizing those of us who didn't get credit our Feb semester? It contrasts the entire principle of the Feb program. We are now officially not on an equal plane with the September folks. They cut off the ".5" from our graduation date and this is what happens!

This way, explained the administration, Febs get "first dibs on classes" the fall semester before they graduate. But what about the Febs who want to graduate early? Now it seems the school is not encouraging that at all. Well, it does mean an extra semester's worth of money from them.

To top this all off, there was no warning of this change. Rouleau told me that we should have done the practice registration to find out we were not registering with the regular sophomores, but I told her that we didn't think we needed to "practice." We'd already done this process twice before, and both times we had registered with the regular students. Even on the College's website, it groups all "juniors" into one category with no separation whatsoever. However, on the same website the senior and first-year classes are separated by semester. So how were we to know? We didn't get any notification.

There should have been a more detailed explanation of what was going to happen to the Febs, and we shouldn't have had to register with students who have been here one semester fewer than we, and have five times the number of people. It's just not fair. A chance to re-register would be delightful, but chances are that won't happen. As an alternative, an apology would be nice. Maybe in the form of a mass Feb e-mail. And chocolate. Chocolate would also be nice. And some money. Can we have money?

LUCAS KAVNER '06.5
AN ENGLISH AND THEATRE DOUBLE MAJOR
FROM PLANO, TEXAS

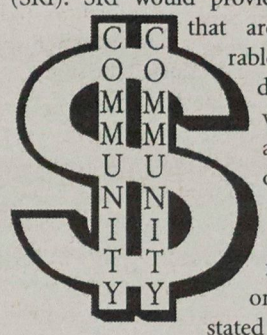
One percent of 670 million dollars

Middlebury College's endowment, invested in a wide range of undisclosed stocks, bonds and mutual funds, is currently valued at $670 million. A meager one percent of $670 million is $6.7 million — a sum that could be of great value to our local community, if invested wisely. Currently, the three voting members of Middlebury's Investment Committee (all members of the Board of Trustees) decide where our endowment is invested, and nobody else, with the exception of our Manager of Investments, knows what they decide.

The Coalition for Ethical Purchasing and Investment (CEPI) is calling upon our Board of Trustees to further the College's reputation as an environmentally and socially responsible institution by investing one percent of its endowment in ethical enterprises.

Middlebury professes high ethical responsibility, yet there is often a disconnect between this claim and our economic policies. It's as if once invested, we are no longer responsible for what sort of activities our money supports (or doesn't support). While we applaud the myriad ethical decisions Middlebury does make — building with sustainably harvested timber, recycling and composting extensively — at some point we must take responsibility for the profound effect that our investment decisions have upon the world.

We appreciate the luxuries provided by the returns on our endowment, but we would enjoy them even more if we knew that they were paid for — at least in part — by returns on Socially Responsible Investment (SRI). SRI would provide returns that are comparable with traditional investments, allow Middlebury to more powerfully demonstrate its stated "commitment to environmentally responsible and sustainable practices," provide excellent public relations material, enhance relationships with the surrounding community and even encourage wavering donors to contribute.



CEPI wants to see the College fully embrace its lofty ideals. We believe that Middlebury has the power and responsibility to make a positive contribution to the world, if we can get past our utilitarian short-sightedness. For example, we would like to see the College doing all it can to ensure that Vermont continues to develop as a vibrant agricultural community, and see investment as a logical avenue for the pursuit of this goal.

CEPI urges Middlebury to invest in companies that adhere to a customized version of the "Standards for Corporate Responsibility" published by the Social Ventures Network. We will emphasize the protection of human rights, labor rights and the environment, and will advocate divestment from companies profiting from alcohol or tobacco products, or directly contributing to global climate change. In addition, we will emphasize on the importance of local investing and purchasing.

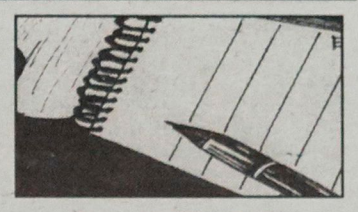
Although Middlebury College already positively influences the larger Middlebury community in myriad ways, our investment policy is currently driven by one goal: maximization of profits. SRI thus demands a difficult shift in fundamental attitudes.

In addition, the field of SRI is complex and relatively new, entailing a sizable amount of work for its effective implementation at Middlebury College. Laziness, however, is no excuse for irresponsibility towards our planet, our community and our fellow man.

If you share these sentiments, or just want to learn more about investment policies, join us on Battell Beach Friday, May 7, from 3-4:30 p.m. Larson will perform and Scholar-in-Residence Bill McKibben, Tod Murphy of the Farmer's Diner and Will Stevens of Golden Russet Farms, will speak on the significance of the College's purchasing and investment choices. We will serve free American Flatbread and distribute copies of a letter addressed to the three voting members of our Investment Committee, urging the conversion of one percent of our endowment to ethical investment.

AMBER TROTTER '06
AN ENVIRONMENTAL STUDIES AND SOCIOLOGY-ANTHROPOLOGY DOUBLE MAJOR
FROM REDWOOD VALLEY, CALIF.

JON WARNOW '06
AN ENVIRONMENTAL STUDIES MAJOR
FROM MAMARONECK, N.Y.



NOTES
FROM THE DESK

"What is art?" This is the infamous and seemingly insolvable question I asked myself and the College community on a weekly basis last semester. The question I've been asking since my "Performance Art" seminar when I stuck pieces of pink and black construction paper all over my body and pretended it meant something. The question artists, art critics and art skeptics have been asking since words existed.

And these days, art has got to be the most all-encompassing word in the English dictionary.

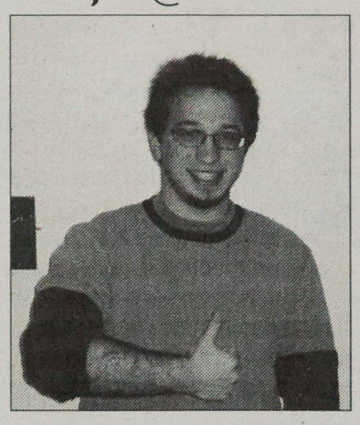
You're art, I'm art and I could clip off one of my big toenails right now, fold it in half and that would be art too. Well, that is if there were "thoughtful intent" behind my doing it. And then, if I were just crazy enough to convince myself it was art, and it was profound, and it took me years to imagine how I would fold it at just the right angle to capture the spirit of my profound idea, I might even be able to mount it and sell it for a million dollars. Or not mount it and convince myself that it was more valuable in its "raw form." Then I would call it..."Toenail!"

But I think I've finally solved the problem. Let's group all the people with talent under the "art" heading and its various subheadings of music, dance, drawing, etc. (and don't pull that "What's talent?" question on me either, because we all know who we're talking about here), and all the other performance "artists" and visual "artists" can have their own category called "strange modes of expression." They can get their own universities and colleges — in cozy (remote) locales across the globe — start their own schools of thought, although they might have a hard time figuring out exactly what "thought" is, and when they graduate they won't even realize the hardships of unemployment because they'll be too busy expressing the plight of the Colombian coffee grower with a Barbie doll, a pin cushion and a jar of spicy Picante.

Now nobody has to be offended by being associated with anyone who pushes the boundaries of "art" — whatever that means.

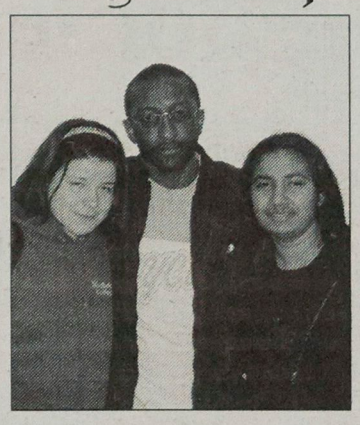
ABBIE BEANE '04.5
FEATURES EDITOR
THE MIDDLEBURY CAMPUS

The Middlebury Campus online poll



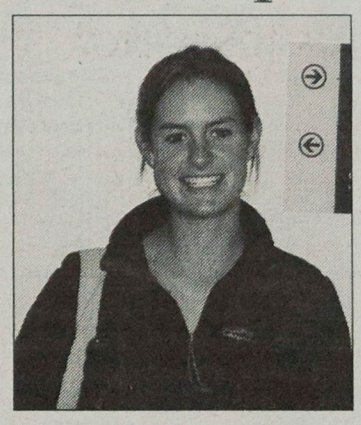
SURE. LET THE SMOKERS FREEZE.

—RYAN COHEN '07



IT REFLECTS THE POPULAR OPINION, BUT PEOPLE'S FREEDOMS SHOULD BE CONSIDERED AS WELL.

—NELI GEORGIEVA '06
FELIX MUCHOMBA '05
SUMAYA HUQUE '06



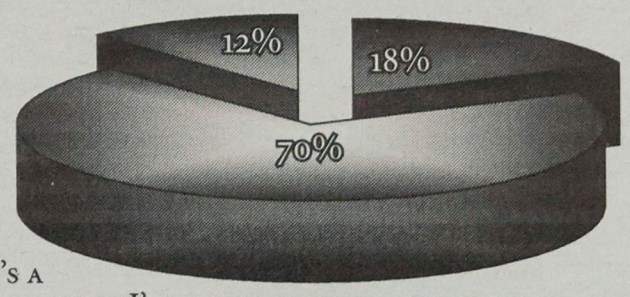
I FULLY SUPPORT IT. SMOKING'S BAD AND SHOULD BE BANNED.

—ELLIE PARKER '05

WHAT DO YOU THINK OF THE SMOKING BAN PROPOSED BY PRESIDENT MCCARDELL?

IT'S JUST A LAST DITCH EFFORT BY MCCARDELL TO LEAVE A LASTING EFFECT ON THE COLLEGE COMMUNITY.

NOT THE BEST IDEA. SMOKERS SHOULD HAVE JUST AS MUCH FREEDOM AS EVERYONE ELSE.



IT'S A GOOD IDEA. I'M TIRED OF BEING AT RISK OF DEVELOPING EMPHYSEMA BECAUSE OF SMOKE CREEPING THROUGH THE VENTS.

Results based on 111 responses collected between April 28 and May 4 at www.middleburycampus.com

More than Make-up: Midd Cheer speaks out

A "female athlete" is not an oxymoron, nor is it a tall tale. In fact, the title "female athlete" is just as valid as the title "powerful" male athlete, or at least it should be. Yes, living in a patriarchal society automatically calls for, as well as allows, the perpetuation of racism and sexism. However, who has the power to change the ultimately imbalanced, male-dominated political, socio-economic structure? The educated, of course.

I used to think highly of us "educated folks," especially the ones here at Middlebury College, until I read the brutal column by "Angry" Peter Yordan last week. A fellow Middlebury student had the audacity to blatantly denounce a *sports* team on this College campus. Yes, cheerleading is an actual sport, not a concocted sexual fantasy for horny men, or some sort of "cutsie" pom-pom routine. The cheerleaders on this campus prove this notion inaccurate, due to their amazing athletic, gymnastic and professional abilities, which continue to amaze and bring life to the Middlebury campus.

Firstly, many are unaware that the founder of the cheerleading team, Anna Rita Pergolizzi '04, who is both a Posse scholar and promising future leader, started the *competitive* cheerleading team in order to expose the true athleticism of the sport. Aren't mid-air flips and eight-feet high pyramids enough to qualify one as an athlete? Or does that only qualify for male-dominated sports like rugby and basketball?

Cheerleaders are not "silly." And a cheerleading squad is not "horribly out of place at a NESCAC school." If it was, how then would you explain the hundreds of competitive cheerleading teams at the collegiate level? How about the thousands of cheerleading teams worldwide? Does that not account for anything? Evidently, it accounts for a whole lot, and validates the legitimacy of the staying power of cheerleading as a sport, and not some high-school fad.

Most importantly, Midd Cheer is a competitive squad, and the cheerleaders have only cheered at two varsity games — one was a basketball game, the other a football game. They did so to gain exposure and of course funding. Not funding for pom-poms or make-up, but for athletic equipment such as floor mats and foam blocks. You know, things needed for *professional* athletes.

Middlebury's cheerleading team also defies the "exhibitionist" stereotype often unfairly pinned to cheerleaders. Anyone who has attended a Midd Cheer performance knows how much dedication, teamwork and plain old talent is required in order to create and maintain a successful cheerleading team. Cheerleading stunts are a part of a unique routine, which expose stellar sportsmanship and strength. This is why cheerleading has both domestic and global appeal, and of course, why the very popular sports network, ESPN, chooses to air collegiate cheerleading competitions.

Perhaps I am an idealist to think that others on this campus would respect an obvious sport, which happens to be dominated by women. Perhaps I am too much of a dreamer to believe that after attaining a Middlebury education, it is possible to step outside of the patriarchal box, where one can actually think on his/her own. Perhaps. However, thanks to the extra accolade gained by cheerleaders two weeks ago — they placed first in a collegiate competition — I am convinced that slowly, others will recognize the negative impact of sexism on our everyday lives and Middlebury experience. In order to fully benefit from our "liberal" bubble, it is mandatory to actually learn to escape the mental enslavement fed to us in textbooks and in the media. Let us wake up on our own, and respect each other as Middlebury students and human beings, as men and women, as athletes and cheerleaders.

Crystal Belle '04
An English major
from Brooklyn, N.Y.

Letters to the Editor Continued

To the Editor:

I am writing to offer an update on the Fair Beans Campaign as the semester comes to a close. We began our efforts back in November and have since grown into a campus-wide grassroots organization. There have been coffee houses, presentations, meetings and speakers throughout the year, and we'd like to inform the student body as to where we stand at this point.

You may have noticed that the dining halls have been serving consistently more fair trade coffee since our trial period in J-Term. This has been made possible by the success of the Waste Reduction Campaign — the money saved by reducing food waste has gone towards covering the extra cost of the coffee. Thanks to the student body, we reduced food waste by a consistent 25 percent in Proctor and 45 percent in Ross. Congratulations!

Now, due to the support of the administration and dining services, all the dining halls will be serving 100 percent fair trade coffee starting in the fall. While our current coffee provider is New England Coffee, a bid is out for next year's provider. In the running are Green Mountain Coffee, Dean's Beans, Equal Exchange and other companies, including New England. Regardless of who is chosen, Dining Services will be paying a competitive price for higher quality, socially responsible coffee.

I'd like to thank the student body, faculty, staff and administration for their support, and applaud the College for making the socially and environmentally conscious decision once again.

Sincerely,
Emily Hayes '06

To the Editor:

First, I would like to note that it is not wise to write an opinionated article on something about which one knows nothing. That said, I must admit that "Angry Peter's" scathing remarks about the cheerleading team were hurtful despite their ignorant tone. Midd Cheer attended two sporting events this school year, neither of which was a basketball game. There were no "convoluted pyramids" at either event and there never will be. I would also like to mention that we are not about "giggling." Our focus is always to keep our movements tight and our flyers safe. We came in first place at a regional competition last weekend, and we have never left a competition in our three-year history without a trophy. In reaction to the question about how other female athletes feel about us, our team consists of three FAM members, and two WAGS majors. Three of our members were at the March for Women's Lives last week. This week we are performing at a benefit to end sexual violence against women. The truth is, whether you like it or not, cheerleading is recognized by the College as a club sport. Everyone is entitled to an opinion, but sharing it without the proper information to back it up is damaging both to the paper and its readers. Bear that in mind the next time you assume the right to judge others before knowing the facts.

Sincerely,
Jenny Studenroth '06.5

To the Editor:

ABC and CBS both recently broadcasted a story on cheerleading as the number-one cause of sports injuries for female athletes seen in the emergency room each year. Peter Yordan made a lot of assumptions last week about not only cheerleading as a sport but also about every member of our Middlebury team. If you look behind the stereotype, you will see that we have feminists as well as varsity athletes. Many members of the team are WAGS majors and past/present presidents of FAM. We are highly aware of the sexual objectification of women, and we do not condone it. Most of us on the team are varsity athletes here at Midd (track, volleyball, football) or have played on varsity sports in high school (diving, field hockey, soccer, gymnastics). We know what a "sport" is and we would never sell ourselves short. Not only are we hard-core athletes, Cook Commons Dean David Edleson coined us "cheerleaders with political conscience" for supporting such events as domestic violence and breast cancer fundraisers, the drag ball, the AAA & ALC shows, etc. We are more than just "giggly dancers." We use our sport to make a difference. As a flyer, most of my time in cheerleading is spent in the air. The sport has an important aerial component and thus requires a lot of strength, balance and immense body control for the flyer and the bases. Everything that we do defies the laws of physics. We were not born to fly. But that is the beauty of it. We do.

Sincerely,
Gillian Wood '04

Reflections on four years at Middlebury

Okay, so maybe the title doesn't work considering I have spent the last semester sailing through the Caribbean, walking along the shores of the Pacific Northwest and watching homes fall into the Atlantic from the eroding beaches of Nantucket, with the Williams-Mystic Maritime Studies Program. That being said, "Reflections on three and a half years at Middlebury" is much more suitable.

Being away this past semester has allowed me the opportunity to appreciate the benefits and comforts of Middlebury. Over the past four years, anything from trekking through four feet of snow to walking in frigid 30-degree below-zero temperatures have clouded that vision. Being amongst other students from various colleges, while interesting, makes me appreciate the caliber of students and professors found at Middlebury.

Now that we (2004 Seniors) are less than three weeks from graduating I can't help but reflect on all the good times we have spent at Middlebury. The connections made with professors, friends and community members are all a part of the Middlebury experience. Many professors have inspired me, and I hope to tell them so, as I encourage everyone graduating Middlebury to do. Too often, professors do not realize the effect they may have on students. Tell them. My advice to those of us who are in our final days and those who have years to go is to appreciate the surroundings of Middlebury and the opportunities available. Even if it is only 18 days until graduation (who's counting?), appreciate and enjoy everything that is happening in the coming weeks. It's too bad I didn't realize all the great aspects of Middlebury until my senior year, however my last months at Middlebury, this fall, were wonderful and I expect to have an equally fun "Senior Week."

As the Class of 2004 exits from these Green Mountains, so does President McCardell. Under McCardell's vision over the past 13 years, he has transformed Middlebury into the school from which we will all have the pleasure to graduate in 18 days. Yes, the College has grown, but imagine this place without Bicentennial Hall, LaForce or Ross Dining. It would have definitely been a completely different experience. No comfy red and blue couches! I mean, really, imagine working late nights in the basement of the, now non-existent Storrs Science building. That's impossible!

The truth is, and anyone who knows me would affirm this, I would never have stated the above about Middlebury one year ago. While I thought it was a great place, it was never the "place" I really "thought" I wanted it to be. Being away, perhaps combined with senior nostalgia, has made allowed me to see the truth of what Middlebury really is. To those of us who graduate in the coming weeks, congratulations and good luck. To those who stay behind to complete their Middlebury experience, good luck and enjoy every second, go abroad, and appreciate the community, professors and students around you. Middlebury truly is a great place!

Gabriel Ortiz '04
A history major
from Midlothian, Va.

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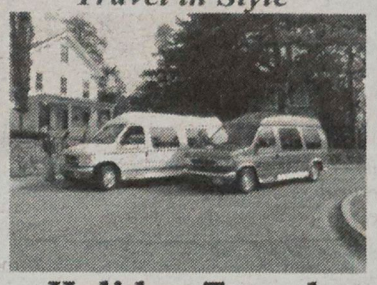

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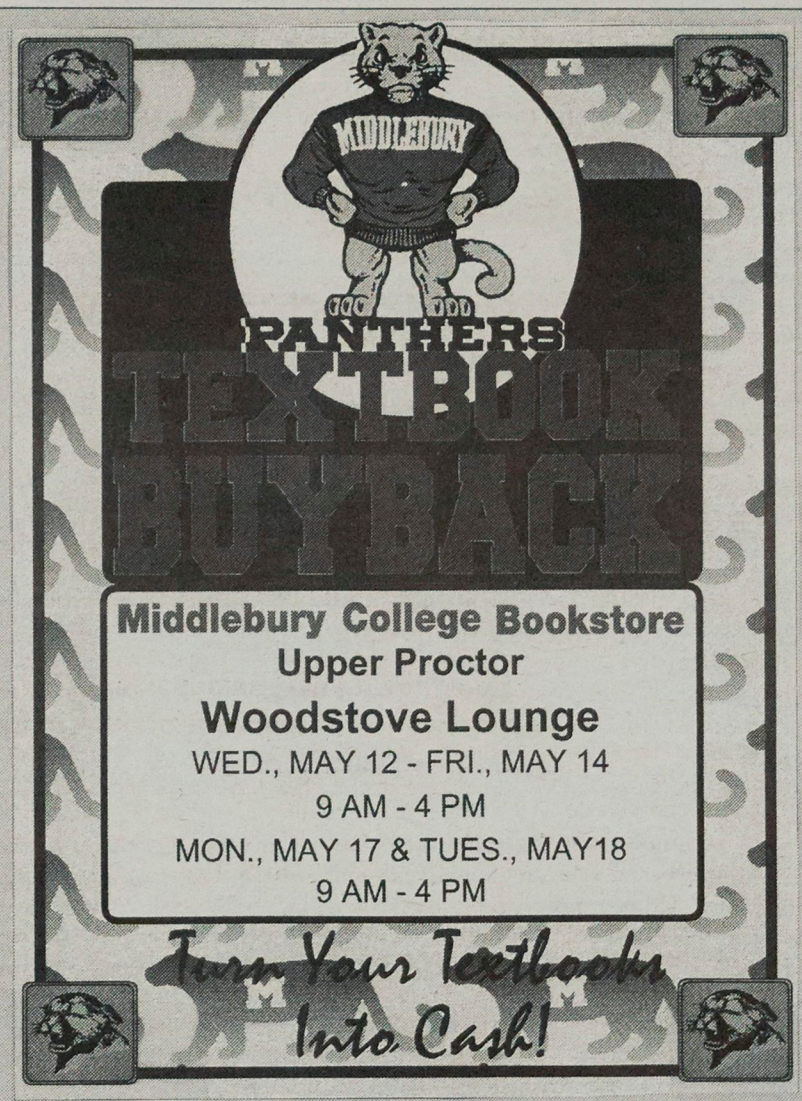

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Dating doldrums: Should Cupid be on call?

With online dating services up and running at other colleges, the facebook/peoplefinder might not be enough

By Astri von Arbin Ahlander
Staff Writer

Spring has just hit campus, and everywhere you look you can see students lounging in the sun, scoping out potential crushes from behind dark sunglasses. But does that mean the Middlebury policy to look, but not to approach? Is there no middle ground between hooking up and so-called "marriage" relationships?

On many other college campuses, an alternative to the lack of dating has arisen in the form of online dating or compatibility-match services. WesMatch, created by and for Wesleyan University students, has generated much interest already. On the service's website, www.wesmatch.com, it is described as "a student-run compatibility matching service for Wesleyan University students, based on answers to a multiple-choice questionnaire. It's not a dating service, nor a hook-up service (though if you're lucky, it may land you both). The people with whom you test your compatibility will never know you looked them up, although if they are at the top of your list, you may also be at the top of theirs."

At present, Harvard, Columbia, Stanford, Yale, Cornell, Dartmouth, the University of Pennsylvania, Massachusetts Institute of Technology, Boston University, New York University, Williams, Oberlin, Bowdoin, Wesleyan and many, many more colleges and universities of varying sizes offer some form of online dating. Most include photos and personal profiles, and provide the opportunity to make compatibility searches within the system. One of WesMatch's functions is to send an e-mail to both parties if two people list each other as a compatible match. If you list someone who hasn't listed you, they will never know — the system saves students from such humiliation. The system used at Harvard, Thefacebook, has developed into an advanced version of Middlebury's People Finder. On Thefacebook you can find photos, profiles, what classes the person is taking and even find out if they have been mentioned in any campus articles. So is it time to bring one of these services to Middlebury?

When asked about this, a lot of Middlebury students have reservations. One first-year commented, "I would be afraid of the dating-service stigma — like being labelled 'one of the dating service guys who can't get dates on his own!'" This reaction was echoed by several other students, who think that dating at Middlebury is not possible due to the lack of "neutral" space on campus or in the town of Middlebury.

If you go on a date, you are bound to go to a place where you will run into other Midd- kids, most of whom you would probably know. While at bigger schools you might not need to face the awkwardness of running into a bad date the day after, at Middlebury you'll probably stand next to them in the lunch line the next day.

Students believe that being anonymous is impossible on a campus as small as Middlebury's. "Middlebury is too small of a community for a dating service," said Ryan Dunn-Komeh '05. This may be true, but dating systems seem to be thriving at schools of comparable size. "Perhaps if everybody did it, it wouldn't be weird. I would do it," commented Claire Ojima '07. This seems to be the general attitude at Wesleyan, as an impressive 2,474 out of the total 2,700 students joined WesMatch.

But can this electronic match-forum really be the answer? After all, there are couples on campus. How did they meet? After speaking to several students involved in relationships, it became clear that there is a difference between dating and "being together," which is how these couples described themselves. Often, they met through mutual friends and then hooked up at a party, which in turn led to a relationship. None of the couples seemed to actually have gone on dates in order to get to know each other.

But what about the crushes with whom you share no mutual friends who can bring you together? And what if you want to reach out beyond your group of friends and find new prospects, but don't know where to look? Perhaps it is for such situations that a dating service similar to WesMatch or Thefacebook can be beneficial to the Middlebury community.

Anna Wishart '07 agrees, "I think it's a great idea. It will bring dating back to the campus, which we really need. Whatever happened to finding someone you're interested in without having it start through some random party hook-up? I feel like old-fashioned dates with amazing conversations are pretty rare these days."

Nate Dorr

At Wesleyan, 2,474 out of 2,700 students have joined WesMatch.

Surfing for love

Wanted: Single senior living on his/her own

match.com
eharmony.com
tickle.com
craigslist.com

Excerpts from Craigslist.com personals

"When i buzz you in, i'll leave my front door slightly unlocked, and when you open it you'll find the room in darkness except for the light from a candle."

"Male seeks woman who's pleasingly plump."

"I'm 21, swm, athletic build but this is strictly platonic and just needs some girls!"

"I would love to have an opportunity to become friends with someone over lunch in the park, on a beautiful day."

Alcoholics anonymous: Student voices on tap

By Abbie Beane
Features Editor

College — a memorable four years of rigorous academics, strings of all-nighters, empty "romance" and incorrigible dreams — usually involves a funnel, a forty or a flask of not-so-fine red wine. And Middlebury is no exception, as a random sample of 100 students at Proctor Dining Hall last weekend confirmed.

In sum, we're Addison County's greatest lot of drunken exhibitionists. You chugged 37 beers and half a bottle of vodka, took six shots of Jagermeister, blacked out on McCullough lawn and woke up naked? So what? Johnny drank an entire keg by himself (of Guinness), downed a bottle of Bacardi 151 and proceeded to slam bombers until his friends had to take him to Porter Hospital to get his stomach pumped — and he's got a 15-pager due tomorrow — and he hasn't slept since April 24.

Besides the fact that it's college tradition to get bombed every weekend, what other reasons do we have for drinking ourselves into oblivion? The answer is, all kinds of reasons. The top five include drinking to be "social," drinking to feel more attractive and shed social inhibitions (more frankly put by many students as "alcohol helps me get laid"), drinking simply to have fun, drinking for the taste of alcohol and finally, drinking to unwind. The top five reasons combined comprised 88 percent of student input. Other students mentioned peer pressure as a reason for drinking, as well as the fact that it goes well with marijuana. Still others said they drink to escape stress and "to forget," or simply because they like to have drinking competitions with their friends because "girls dig it."

One thing's for sure — we've got a lot more reasons than we did in high school. In fact, 65 percent of students reported that they began drinking "much more often" after beginning College, seven percent drink approximately the same amount, while 28 percent actually drink less. As for peer pressure, 59 percent of students say it is not a factor and 34 percent say it is only "somewhat of a factor." So, it seems we've started to like it.

We like it five times during the week and eight times over the weekend on average, which breaks down to about one drink per week night and four per weekend night, meaning Friday and Saturday evenings. Many students tallied their drinking scores much higher of course.

According to Doug Adams, director of student activities and leadership, four drinks per sitting for females and five drinks for males constitutes binge drinking. Doing this three times per week is frequent binge drinking. As for peer pressure, Adams encourages us to think about the distinction between peer pressure and social pressure. When students say their reason for drinking is to be social, that could be conceived as social pressure. "[If you're a student] there may be an expectation that you'll be drinking on a Friday or Saturday nights," says Adams."It's just what you do to have fun."

The biggest problem is what Adams calls "preloading" behind closed doors in private settings before arriving at a College social event. "The College can't do much about this as an administrative body," says Adams. "Only the students can encourage each other to drink responsibly and make informed choices." He does however advocate events such as those hosted by the Senior Week Committee, like the "100 Days" and "200 Days" parties, where those of age can drink in safe, on-campus environments, which are attractive and not overcrowded.

Last week's article, "Cruisin' for some boozin'," quoted Director of Public Safety Lisa Boudah as saying that the number of students taken by ambulance to Porter Hospital has increased since last year, although the number of incidents involving alcohol reported to Public Safety has held steady. According to students, 76 percent also believe that drinking has not become more prevalent at the College in recent years, and 83 percent think that Middlebury's consumption is "comparable to other colleges and universities." In fact, 17 percent say we drink less than other schools, and none will tell you that Middlebury has a drinking "problem." Since Adams began working at the College five years ago he has found off-campus parties to be on the rise, and social house parties on the decline, which typically defined "fun" five years ago. "There is an increased understanding in the social houses that they are taking a big risk by serving to minors," says Adams. "They definitely know the state laws today."

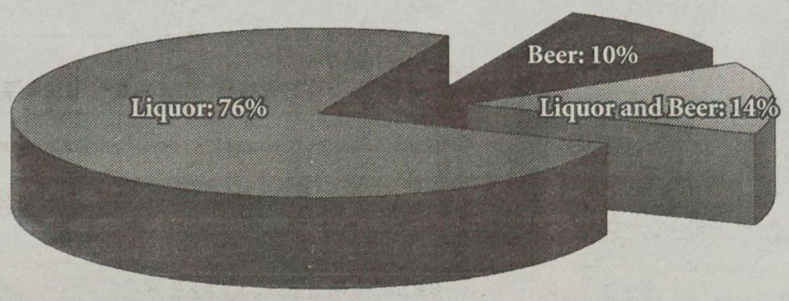
According to the survey, only 14 percent of students reported being taken to Public Safety, Parton Health Center or Porter Hospital during their College career thus far. Twice that number, 28 percent, reported taking a friend to one of these locales. Adams reports, as Boudah did last week, that DWIs among College students have declined. He credits an increased police force in town, which has cited more drunken drivers, and taught students that getting nabbed for this offense is a real threat.

In last week's "Cruisin' for some boozin'," Andrew McCabe, owner of the Vermont Liquor Outlet, and Joe Cotroneo (Bev. Co. Joe), owner of Middlebury Discount Beverage, duked it out over the consumption culprit — beer and hard liquor. Now the students have spoken. An overwhelming 76 percent believe hard liquor to be the cause of the most "alcohol-related problems and illnesses" at the College, while 10 percent responded "beer" and the remaining 14 percent believe a combination of liquor and beer to be the issue. Adams also feels liquor to be the most immediate threat to students, as it is easier to consume at a rapid pace.

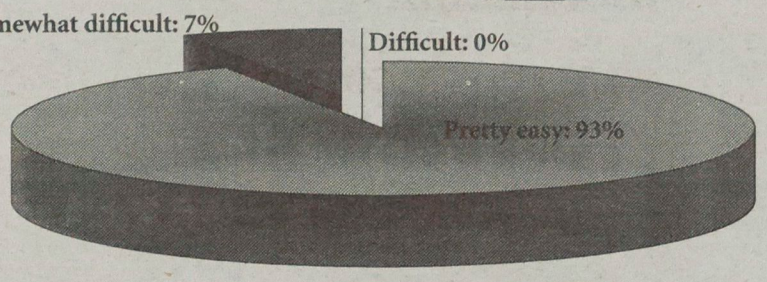
But if one thing's certain, it's that minor or not, your vote counts. No student indicated in his or her survey that it is "difficult" to get away with drinking at Middlebury as a minor, seven percent said it is "somewhat difficult" and 93 percent decided that it's frankly "pretty easy."

The College's current mission, explains Adams, is to encourage more students to stay on campus, to have a good time and to be aware of how much they consume. "Our goal is to make a pub with a good atmosphere happen at Middlebury, kind of like the one at Notre Dame," says Adams. "But a lot of kids don't even know we have three beers on tap at The Grille." On the other hand, Adam reminds us that this social drinking phenomenon is not the only way to have a good time. "Every weekend the College offers many fun and different events for students to enjoy that don't revolve around drinking."

The most problematic alcohol in terms of student illness is...



Getting away with underage drinking at Midd is...



Since College I drink...

TEN REASONS WHY WE DRINK

1.) TO BE SOCIAL
2.) TO FEEL ATTRACTIVE/LOSE INHIBITIONS
3.) TO HAVE FUN
4.) FOR THE TASTE
5.) TO UNWIND
6.) TO ESCAPE STRESS/TO FORGET
7.) PEER PRESSURE
8.) ALCOHOL GOES WELL WITH POT
9.) SOCIAL HOUSES SUCK WITHOUT BEER
10.) TO COMPETE WITH FRIENDS

Survey taken by 100 students outside Proctor

THE THREE FAVORITE DRINKS

1.) WHITE RUSSIANS
2.) MICROBREWS
3.) JACK AND COKE/GIN AND TONIC

POPROCKS

BY LANFORD BEARD

With their latest show, "Showbiz Moms and Dads," the Bravo network takes reality's sadistic impulse beyond the limits of taste to show several sets of parents and children who have committed themselves to do whatever it takes to get their name in lights — even if those lights are only the blue-and-white flicker of voyeuristic television screens.

The show begins each week with the Tyes. Mom Deborah carts four-year-old Emily to tanning appointments, composure lessons and Little Miss Backwater Florida pageants, reducing her daughter to nothing more than a glorified show dog.

Watching this family, one wonders if the producers choose to put them first in order to dispose of the dirty business right away or to use the most egregious example of unofficial child abuse to hook viewers. A bit of both perhaps.

Americans today watch TV with one eye shut, allowing the massive pile-up of investigative crime series, reality shock shows and sensationalized news to flow over them like a crimson wave.

After Deborah plucks, paints and primps Emily, she swears at the judges and badmouths other pageant families. She recognizes that she is objectifying her daughter, but refuses to admit that her motivations are less than selfless.

Members of the not-quite Peter Pan generation like Deborah Tye have mutated into a rare species who recognize that they can no longer be childlike so they pin their hopes and dreams on their own children, innocent bystanders who become (at best) little more than trophy cases and paper dolls.

That being said, I don't want to give the show an entirely bad wrap. It is exploitative, but how can Bravo refuse to exploit a group who offer themselves up like lambs to the slaughter?

Like Deborah Tye, there is another psychotic family with the appropriate name, Nutters. Dad Duncan moved his family from Vermont to Queens to pursue the life of a showbiz family, though the kids clearly don't want to step into the limelight.

On the other hand, the Moseley-Stephens family buoys the sinking ship of the show as former actress and MC Hammer girl Kim Stephens treats her eight-year-old daughter Jordan Moseley with respect and humor befitting her age.

I think that Whitney Houston was on to something (something philosophical, that is, not crack) when she sang, "I believe the children are the future. Teach them well and let them lead the way."

If only these parents would teach their kids some valuable lessons that didn't involve whoring themselves to Hollywood.

BY VENESSA WONG

At the grueling end of every academic semester, we are reminded that *pressure* and *pleasure* negate one another. Students preparing for their finals become plagued with an unbearable fatigue. Yet study is the essential element of a university education. Students, by occupation, study. This is our task, or as Adam Smith would phrase it, our *trade*. The most important things for us to do, and do well, are study and learn.

According to the classic philosophers who pondered the question of education, understanding is man's greatest virtue, and only when he cultivates it through study does he find happiness. In Aristotelian philosophy, study is an activity that is intrinsically "choice worthy," carried out for its own sake. It is leisurely — a pleasurable activity that is both the activity and the end. It is therefore different from occupation and work, which are not pleasurable in themselves, but done with an eye for other belated benefits.

The university is a place where one cultivates the virtue of understanding. It is a community of teachers and learners in pursuit of wisdom. Education is something done in leisure, and a *liberal education* in particular is one that is leisurely. Students engage in study by choice, and are in some way emancipated by the process of learning. The subjects learned in the university are noble and good in themselves. They increase one's understanding, though they may not be necessary and useful. Students enjoy them.

In the classic view, students in a liberal arts school like Middlebury College should be willfully engaged in the best activity — study. However, the reality is that during finals week, students are unanimously tortured by their studies. What prevents the ancients' image of liberal education from realization on campus?

Perhaps the fault rests in the outlook of the people studying. To many of us, "study" and "work" are synonymous. We see studying as an occupation, not a pastime. It is a thing not good in itself, but good for the benefits it yields — being prepared for class the next day, maintaining a GPA and securing a better job offer in the distant future. We rarely find enjoyment or leisure in our immediate studies because we are too busy thinking of what will follow. Still, we grudgingly place study in high priority either out of a sense of obligation or a blind desire to achieve.

Ultimately, since we must all participate in study, we should also learn to enjoy it. Our activity should provide our happiness. Forget the distractions of the outside world and invest fully in the moment. Think not of what benefits will follow later, but which ones you can extract now. Next time study intensifies, put down the caffeine and embrace your books. Think of it as a scholarly carpé diem. Remember that beneath the loathsome burden of homework lies the liberating inheritance of wisdom.

Relay runs away with its goal

A participant in the Relay for Life reflects on a memorable night and a worthy cause

By Karl Whittington
Guest Writer

Last Friday and Saturday, Middlebury students and town residents participated in Middlebury's first ever Relay for Life, the signature event of the American Cancer Society.

Similar relays take place annually all across the country, raising money for cancer research and increasing awareness about the disease.

Event participants formed teams of 10 to 20 people representing various schools, clubs, churches, families or friends. Each team raised money for the event, and team members took turns walking around a track or path throughout the night, in a vigil for the fight against cancer.

Middlebury's Relay for Life was held on the soccer fields behind Kenyon Arena, from 3 p.m. on Friday until 10 a.m. Saturday morning. The event far surpassed its initial fundraising goals, and ended up raising over $75,000 — a remarkable feat considering it was the first time the event had come to Middlebury.

The event was organized mainly through the efforts of freshmen Ross Lieb-Lappen and Meg Young, who hoped to raise $30,000. Hundreds of people participated and donated money.

As is the tradition, the Relay officially began with a lap by dozens of cancer survivors and their loved ones, following the inspirational opening remarks delivered by breast cancer survivor Linda Revell. They completed their opening lap to the cheers of the crowd, and then all the teams began walking or running. People came and went throughout the night, but there were always dozens of walkers on the grass track.

Performances throughout the night kept the spirits of the walkers high. The Mischords, Riddim and the GTVT Breakers all performed, much to the delight of the spectators and walkers. During the rest of the time, a guest DJ played music for the crowd.

Perhaps the most moving moment of the night was the lighting of the luminarias around 9 p.m., another tradition at Relays across the country. The luminarias are white paper bags with candles inside them, dedicated to friends and family who had fought or were fighting cancer, and they were arranged around the track to light the way for the walkers. They created a striking effect as one walked around the corner of the field house and saw them glowing during the night. They remained lit for the remainder of the night and into the next day.

People continued walking through the night. Some walked all night, while others dozed in sleeping bags. Several teams of Middlebury students that stayed all night, walking much of the time. Other students came down to the Relay to sleep under the stars, adding to the already great number of registered walkers.

The best thing about the event was its festive and positive mood. Throughout the afternoon, evening and in the morning, students and others played ball, frisbee, and other games. Others decorated their campsites with posters, balloons and streamers. Mostly, though, people spent their time walking and talking with their friends and teammates, enjoying the chance to be outside and to raise money for a worthwhile cause.

The relay also gave students a chance to interact with members of the community. Sarah Smith '04, leader of the "Blue Sky Revolution," a team comprised entirely of Middlebury seniors, said, "Middlebury's first Relay for Life was a very powerful event both in the money it was able to raise for cancer research, and in its role for building stronger connections between the campus and the greater Middlebury community."

FACTS FROM THE TRACK

44
Teams

800
Estimated participants

862
Luminarias

$30,000
Fundraising goal

$77,365
Amount raised

176
Most laps
Kim Kelly '04

48
Cancer survivors who led a lap

Courtesy

Students camp out at the Relay for Life last Friday. The event, organized by two first-years, collected $77,365, more than twice the initial goal.

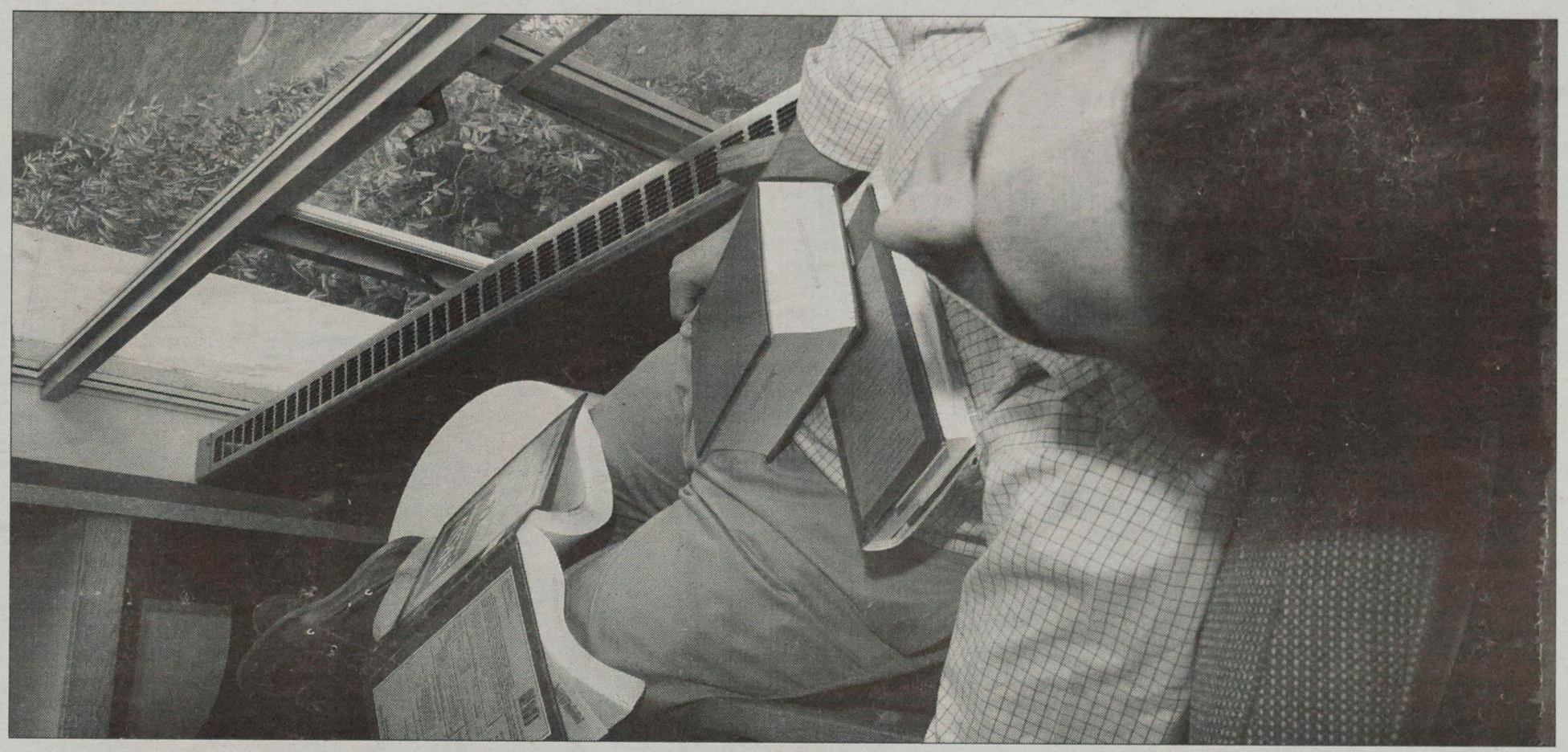


Photo Illustration/Vlad Lodoaba

Classes at the crack of dawn: who needs 'em?

By Polly Johnson
Staff Writer

It's 7:45 a.m and time to make the ultimate decision — do youleave your warm bed, throw on sweats and run to a lecture, or catch up on the sleep you missed last night while finishing your 10-page research paper? Following a four or five hour sleep, waking up at 7:45 seems unthinkable, if not impossible.

According to numerous national surveys, lack of sleep among college students is becoming an enormous problem, merely exacerbated by early morning lectures. At Duke University, the problem of sleep deprivation may be alleviated with the recent elimination of 8 a.m. classes. But should Middlebury follow Duke's lead by taking a step in the same direction?

Part of Duke's plan is "to do individual health assessments for each student, and set goals for good nutrition, exercise and plenty of shuteye." Getting four to five hours of sleep is not only frustrating, it is also extremely unhealthy. Duke's director of counseling and psychological services notes that students "begin to get into a pattern of sleeping four to five hours. They really think it doesn't bother them, but that really isn't the case." The National Sleep Foundation has conducted several studies and stresses the importance of a seven to eight-hour sleep each night to maintain optimal health and wellbeing.

Alyson Bourne '07.5 is not a fan of early classes. "I'm up late almost every night of the week, with my bedtimes varying between one and two in the morning. Eight o'clock classes are not conducive to our learning because if I'm going to be unfocused and falling asleep through lecture, then to me, it's the equivalent of staying in bed to catch up on well-deserved sleep." Many students agree, noting that an eight o'clock lecture is pointless if it will be spent in an attempt to keep your eyes open as opposed to actually listening to the professor. Seminars are even more difficult — having to participate and formulate coherent thoughts is no easy feat when you can hardly muster the strength to open a binder and take notes. Eliminating eight o'clock classes seems like the easiest way to assuage the issue, because no matter how much guidance is given to students about the importance of sleep, most simply have too much work and reading to do at night after a day full of classes and activities.

Richard Ferber, a leading sleep disorder specialist at the Children's Hospital in Boston, is in full support of Duke's decision. His reasoning? "To make an 8 a.m. class means getting up around 7 a.m. or so. To get nine hours of sleep that means being asleep by 10 p.m. Asleep by 11 p.m. is still needed to get eight hours. Less than eight hours if people want to shower and eat breakfast. And only five hours if they are asleep by 2 a.m." For most college students, however, getting to sleep by 11 p.m. is an unattainable goal.

Ferber also warns that sleeping late on weekends creates further problems in daily sleep patterns as it messes up the body's natural clock. Furthermore, "late weekend wake times, and with it, late settings of student body clocks, also assure students will fall asleep late during the week (no matter when they go to bed), so they will also have to go to class sleep deprived. This is a lose-lose situation — sleep deprivation plus attempting to function on the wrong body clock setting."

Getting four to five hours of sleep is not only frustrating, it is also extremely unhealthy.

— James Clack, Duke's director of counseling and psychological services

Not everyone is in favor, however, of the elimination of early classes. Professor of Biology Tom Root feels that students are alert enough in the morning, and that students should be able to manipulate their schedules just as professors do. "All of us move family responsibilities in order to [accommodate sleep and our busy schedules], and we therefore expect students to be similarly prepared and prompt," he said.

At a school that offers so much in the way of culture and social life on top of a heaping amount of work, the daily distractions of the Internet, online chatting and primetime television, it's difficult to maintain healthy sleep patterns. However, for our health and general wellbeing, it is vital to get as much sleep as possible, and make better decisions about how to manage our time.

Connor sets sights on the State House

By Lynn Gray
Staff Writer

Senior year could be hectic for Tabby Connor '05. In addition to juggling the usual pre-graduation tasks of a thesis and job-search, the political science major will also be trying to boost her election hopes as she runs for the Vermont House of Representatives.

Connor, president of the College Republicans, is the youngest Middlebury student to run for the State House since current Governor Jim Douglas '72 did so in the same year he graduated.

Connor's interest in representative government began at a young age. She was a member of the student government throughout high school, and went on to be president of her class four years in a row. She was also involved in the student newspaper, eventually becoming the editor and also acted as a peer counselor.

Throughout the winter, Connor interned at the Vermont State Republican Party Office in Montpelier. It was there that State Majority Leader Connie Huston approached Connor with the notion of running for State House representative.

"I really didn't think I would get involved in this level of politics so early," commented Connor. She continued, "There's been a lot of support along the way, but I'm still nervous about it. It's a huge undertaking to say yes, I will represent a community."

Her connection to the community is long-standing. She grew up just 15 minutes south on Route 30 in Shoreham, Vt. She attended both Middlebury Union Middle School and High School. "Middlebury's really been my town for my whole life," she said.

Connor's attraction to the political process also has deep roots. She explained, "My interest in politics has been there my whole life. My family is very politically conscious." The local environment has also helped Connor identify her beliefs. "The area around [Middlebury] has been primarily liberal [in my lifetime]. So that has forced me to challenge my ideals and defend them."

Connor has several definite issues that she will be advocating. Educational, economic and environmental concerns are the basis of her platform. She would like to address the root causes of some troubling education statistics in this immediate area. "Middlebury has improved education standards in the last couple of years, but we're still below the state average in a lot of areas," she said.

Connor also plans to focus on encouraging small business growth. She commented, "Small business is really the backbone of Middlebury. We're not a town that needs a lot of manufacturing jobs coming in. We need middle-income level, small business-type jobs." She plans to accomplish this goal through "permit reform and lower property and income taxes."

Connor is as concerned with the local environment as she is with economic issues. She said, "I am strongly in favor of business and economic growth that does not come at the cost of the environment. Middlebury is a beautiful area. We rely heavily on tourism and agriculture."

Connor isn't sure what lies in her political future, but sustained political activism is a certainty. She hopes to help reshape peoples' view of politics no matter what her line of work is.

Connor stated, "A lot of people put politics in this category of candidates and government officials. But in a small state like Vermont, the sort of work the government is doing affects everyone, everyday, in various areas of their life."

"In Vermont it's about people voting for the person. Honesty and representing yourself are important. I'm running as who I am, and the people who support that will vote for me."

The word "hard working" comes up repeatedly when professors speak of Connor.

Associate Professor of Political Science Matt Dickinson commented, "[She's] smart, and a hard worker. She strikes me as quite thoughtful and a serious student." Assistant Professor of Economics Jon Isham called Connor's early entrance into the political world "fantastic!"

The campaign process has begun for Connor, but the race won't intensify until Labor Day, leading up to the Nov. 2 election.

She explained, "I'm still in the information gathering process. I have my issues that I want to work on, but I'm also trying to listen to what people are saying."

Later in the year, Connor will spend a couple of hours everyday going door to door getting to know "everyone in the town of Middlebury."

Taking the clippers to AIDS

By Joyce Man
Staff Writer

The statistics in Romania are daunting. The 5,300 children with AIDS and 4,500 who are HIV positive make up 63 percent of Europe's pediatric HIV cases. In the past decade, 2,200 Romanian children have died from AIDS. Every year, $13 million is spent fighting AIDS in Romania, a country with an external debt of $8.2 billion.

Back in Middlebury, different sets of needs are waiting to be fulfilled. Students get hungry for Dr. Feelgoods but are too lazy to walk to the Grille, while Joe Middkid realizes his hair has become far too disheveled even for Middlebury.

How are the two connected? Enter the Grille Delivery and haircutting services. The brainchild of Tessa Klein '05, Melissa Klein '07 and Jinhee Joe '06, the two services raise money for HIV patients back in Romania through an organization called Assisting Children with AIDS (ACA). Working in concert with Health Aid Romania, the ACA also gets funds from students at the Klein sisters' high school in Lugano, Switzerland.

In Lugano, the ACA project is the largest community service project with 70 students from Switzerland and now more from Middlebury. Annually, they raise $14,200 for the ACA. The most striking statistic, however, is the number of people they help — a total of two.

Only two HIV positive teenagers out of 9,800? A tad disappointing, perhaps: yet the two recipients of aid, Madalina and Irina, are getting considerable help.

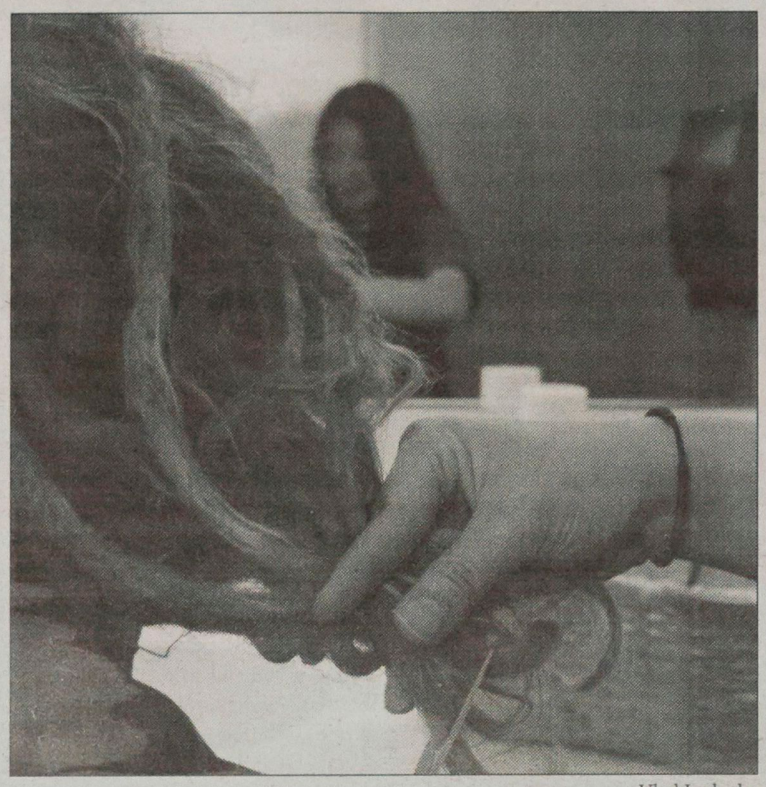
Instead of spreading themselves thin for many, they are raising two children in a real home. The children have a garden to play in and a nuclear-sized family. This is more like the average child's average day, less like an orphan's predicament. As the older Klein emphasizes, "We want to recreate a normal living environment for these children. We concentrate on helping individuals."

This message reached Joe, a self-taught amateur coiffeur engaged in reform of her own kind — charitable hairstyling. Having started haircutting by lucky happenstance, she now contributes half her salary from coiffing to the ACA. By the looks of general response, the kids in Romania are not the only grateful ones. Ian Fleishman '06, Steve Fortunado '05 and Andreas Apostolatos '06 are among her 50 happy clients while Anthony Belanger '05 decided the good cause made the deal even sweeter: "Jinhee's cuts are excellent anyway — I don't settle for less. But when I found out her profits went to ACA, I wanted to pay more for her haircuts."

The other contribution to the ACA's effort is The Grille Delivery Service, staffed every Thursday evening by students who deliver pizza sticks for a fee that goes to ACA funds. On the one hand, tired students get food without the trek. On the other, the ACA gains funds to pay for Madalina and Irina's health insurance, electricity bills and clothing.

Joe learned about the Romanian crisis through a friend. "My Romanian friend told me how doctors coped poorly with an inefficient medical system where each piece of surgical equipment was purchased individually." Evidently, the system is too weak to cope with the HIV positive population.

With the direct access that the Kleins and Joe have to both information and willing contributors, they hope to be conduits between problem and solution. By chatting up Grille customers about the improved lives of Madalina and Irina, or dropping HIV stats during a haircut, they could be garnering a lot more support than they already have.



Vlad Lodoaba

Jinhee Joe '06 cuts dreadlocks as part of her haircutting service to raise money for Romanian children with AIDS.

ON THE BALL

Albert Bitici

Wu Tran '07 takes a header in an intramural soccer game. Other intramurals this spring include softball and a triathlon.

WINNERS & LOSERS

What's hot and what's not on campus and in pop culture? *The Campus* gives its weekly report.

WORMS	**WORMS**
THANKS TO A STUDENT GRANT, THEY'RE AT WORK IN THE ORGANIC GARDEN TO BRING US FRESH PRODUCE	DIE IN THE GRASS, NOT ON OUR SIDEWALKS PLEASE
SGA ELECTIONS	**SGA ELECTIONS**
ANDREW JACOBI HOPE HE THANKED ADP IN HIS ACCEPTANCE SPEECH AT THE HAWAIIAN PARTY	JIMMY HICKEY STRONG PLATFORM FAILS TO SWAY THE VOTERS. WE NEED ICE MACHINES!
TWO MORE DAYS	**TWO MORE DAYS**
AHH...THE MINDLESS JOY OF COURSE EVALUATIONS. TOSS THE SYLLABUS!	SO, WHEN ARE YOU SCHEDULING YOUR FINALS?

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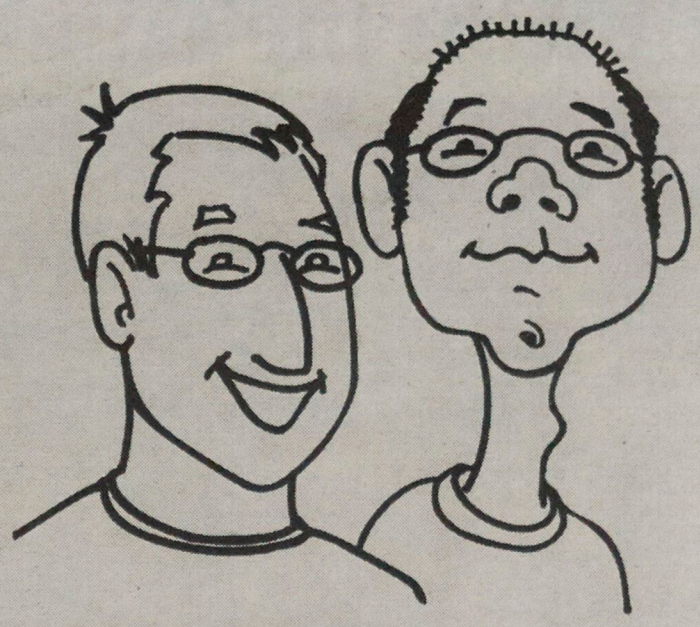

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RIDDIM IMPRESSES WITH 'HALFTIME' DANCE SHOW

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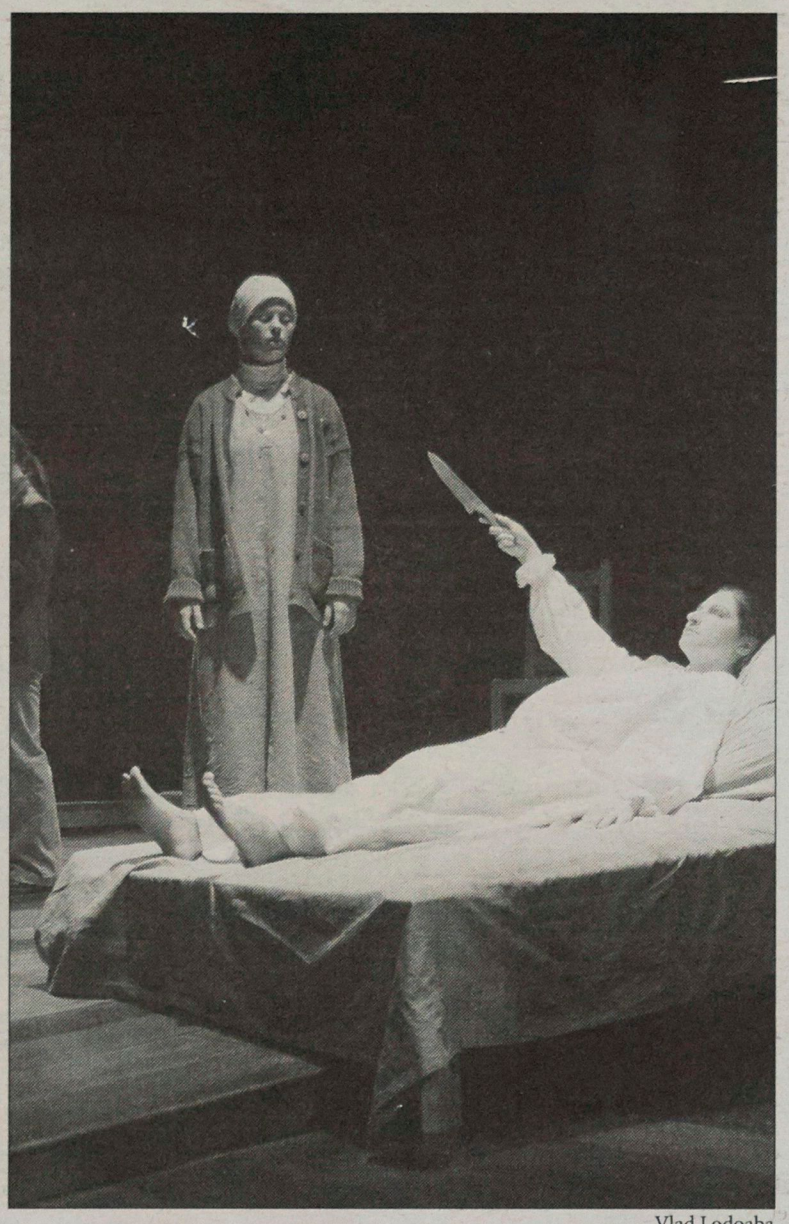
'MY MOTHER SAID I NEVER SHOULD'
SENIOR DIRECTS TRUE-TO-LIFE PLAY ABOUT MOTHER-DAUGHTER RELATIONSHIPS

'Midwives' births life's uncertainties



Vlad Lodoaba

Left: Eric Blachner '05 interrogates Rebecca Kanengeiser '05 as Senior Feb Cassidy Freeman looks on in last weekend's production of "Midwives." Right: Seda Savas '05, with a trance-like expression, raises a knife in Freeman's direction.

By Joyce Man
Staff Writer

"Midwives" pulsed through the audience like a heartbeat.

This weekend's faculty production of Visiting Lecturer in Theater Dana Yeaton's '79 play paralleled all of life's rhythmic undulations — its plot delved deep into birth and death, its poetry spoke with emphatic emotion and contemplative silence, and its movement danced from one conflicted character to the next.

Walking out from Wright Memorial Theater into our newborn summer, its message was clear — in this life, we, like the play's protagonists, are all dealing in the business of midwifery.

Caught between birth and death, we attempt to extract certainty from something about which none of us is certain.

The plot develops as follows — Sybil, an uncertified but highly skilled lay-midwife, encounters trouble in the delivery of the baby of her client and friend, Sara.

When Sara exhausts her own will to push her son into the world and loses all sign of life, Sybil makes an urgent judgment call to save the baby by conducting a cesarean section, a move that may have killed Sara.

As Sybil recounts her tale to her daughter, Connie, she searches for verification of her own guilt or innocence in Sara's death.

"This is a play about the after-effects of tragedy, the slow, corrosive drama that takes place after the major dramatic upheaval," explains Yeaton. "To me, 'Midwives' shows that while we may never completely overcome our demons, there is something redemptive about the effort."

This award-winning script, which Yeaton adapted from Chris Bohjalian's best-selling novel, allows the themes of life and death to overarch without stuffing them in the audience's face.

There is a subtle storm motif — vibrant light and rain represent the amniotic fluid in a mother's abdomen as a child transitions from lifelessness to birth.

In the childbirth scene, Yeaton's script strikes the audience with all the implications of Sybil's inability to communicate to the outside for assistance through one simple line — they cannot use the telephone, because "it's dead."

Finally, Yeaton's script establishes a fluid rhythm that was this production's greatest strength.

It is rare to hear music so clearly embedded in a play, but in "Midwives" conversation imitates basic life beats.

Yeaton orchestrated his cast to complement one another in conversation and to continue dialogue in between scenes as smooth transitions.

The result was that the audience flowed easily with the characters through every stage of the mystery's development, from a painful argument between Sybil and her daughter to a flashback to Sara's fateful childbirth and from courtroom accusation to personal judgment.

This was Yeaton's special effort to bring the audience into the tragedy.

"By moving back and forth between the death and its aftermath, the audience can both experience the tragedy and reflect upon it." In having such seamless scene changes, the audience became caught in the inescapable inner universe of Sybil's conflicted self.

Senior Feb Cassidy Freeman's comportment showed all the telltale signs of a beaten, older woman. Her face was tired and her attitude tinged with comic cynicism.

Life does not grant intermittent pauses but flows with its own rhythm from one reality to the next, just like the pattern of this play.

And that brings us to the cast. Acting onstage as Sara's ghostly white presence, Seda Savas '05 nags at Sybil's conscience and the audience's curiosity for a whole 20 minutes without even opening her mouth. Later, she switches between the role of judge, victim and forgiver, becoming, as Yeaton calls her, a "barometer of Sibyl's guilt and estrangement."

Senior Feb Cassidy Freeman's comportment showed all the telltale signs of a beaten, older woman. Her face was tired and her attitude tinged with comic cynicism. She wore Sybil Danforth's identity as well as she wore her pride and inner conflict.

Sophomore Daniel diTomasso's acting was nuanced enough to convince the audience of the hard, efficient defense attorney to Sybil who was simultaneously caring, so that we even wondered at the possibility of more affection between them. As diTomasso reveals later, there was indeed romance in the original novel.

Ever multifaceted, Sybil was at once mother and child to Connie — closer to death with cancer but also life through self-rediscovery, guilty and innocent, bearer of life and creator of death.

Her daughter, Connie, becomes the redeeming every-child who instills this sad tale with hope.

Yeaton makes it abundantly clear that, through Connie, the death that was instigated by Sara's son is to be undone.

This emphasis on the second generation as both protector and threat to life left the audience to contemplate one painful root of feminine existence embedded in Christianity — that point of birth which brings all of us back to the Biblical fall of Man from divinity to mortality.

The fact that the audience was grateful to "Midwives" for taking them from the Middlebury's lively summer's eve to the brink of life's uncertainty is definitely impressive.

The crowd gave an enthusiastic standing ovation and took away something worthwhile to contemplate.

In the end, as diTomasso explains, "the heart of the show was the relationship between mother and daughter, the love they have for one another and their struggle in dealing with a very difficult event in their past."

Albert Bitici

Dan Koppel '04 accompanied Mary Montgomery '04 on the piano in last weekend's recital of French songs.

Duo dazzles in CFA recital

By Jason Siegel
Assistant Opinions Editor

As the thunder rumbled outside on Saturday evening, the art music recital of seniors Mary Montgomery and Daniel Koppel provided a peaceful refuge for those lucky enough to be inside the Center for the Arts Concert Hall.

The concert featured a set of 11 French art songs sung by Montgomery and one piano piece that she wrote in Paris last spring, played expertly by her accompanist Koppel.

The pieces boasted a wide variety of styles, ranging from somber to coquettish, and the performers captured those moods perfectly.

The inspiration for this concert came about two years ago, when Montgomery and Koppel met for the first time while preparing what would be the last songs in this concert for another recital. A shared appreciation for French language and music guided their choice of songs.

Though audience attention focused mainly on Montgomery as the vocalist, both agreed that the concert was truly a collaborative effort.

Koppel noted, "Either part — the vocal line or piano part — is fairly uninteresting by itself. It is only when they come together that the true work emerges." And this showed throughout the program.

The evening started off with a series of songs by Berlioz, an eccentric composer whose melodies were described by Montgomery as "juicy, gorgeously composed masterpieces."

The songs differed substantially from one another, but the two adapted quite nicely to each style. Montgomery's facial expressiveness enhanced the mood of each song, both in this set and all the following.

Next, the two presented a trio of Debussy pieces, including "Beau Soir," a delicate piece whose title contrasted nicely with the storm brewing outside. Montgomery handled the high notes in this set with ease, while Koppel flawlessly played the piano, each one enhancing the other one's work.

At last it was time for the premiere of Montgomery's masterpiece. Named "Triptych for piano," the piece employed extensive contrast between high notes and low, creating a tense dissonance that engaged and enthralled the audience. Both Koppel and Montgomery described the piece as a challenge to play, especially given that they put together this program in only three months. But to the audience the performance appeared effortless.

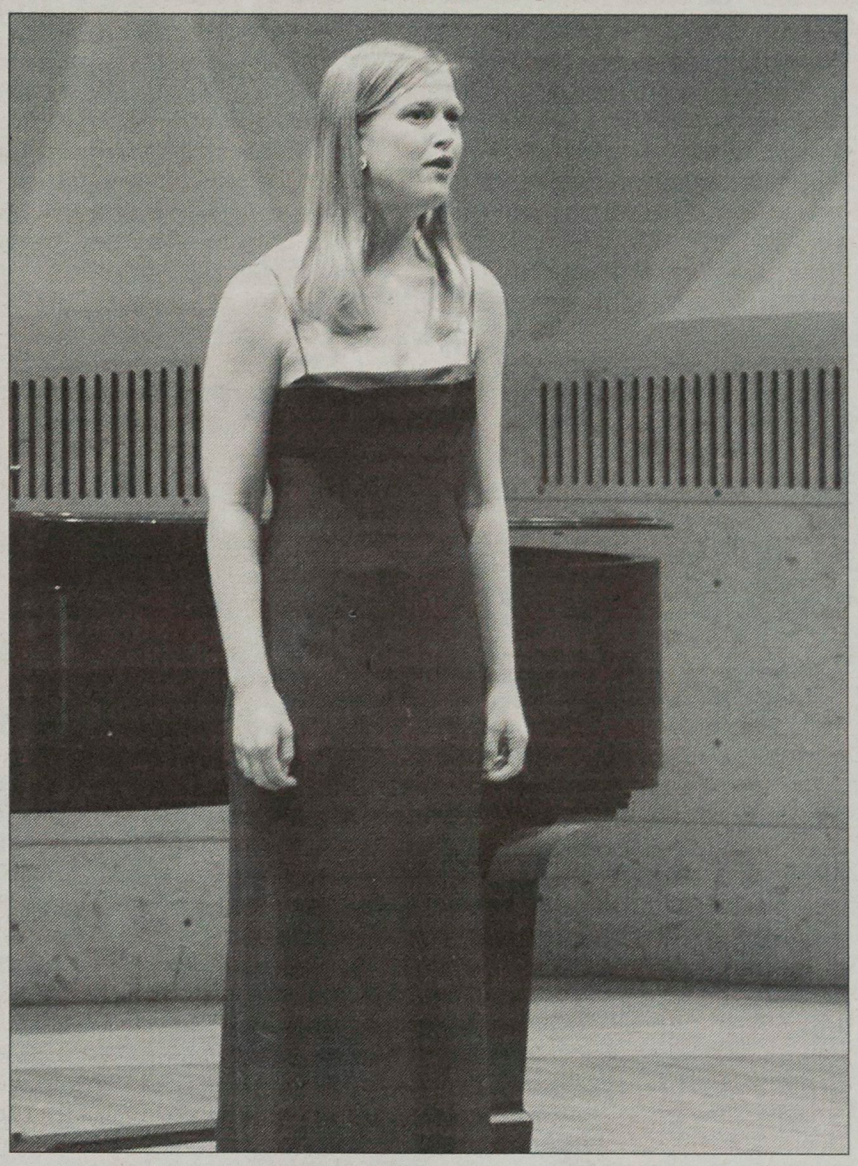
After performing "Séguedille," an aria from the highly popular opera "Carmen," they wrapped up their performance with four selections from the prolific composer Gabriel Fauré.

This set was the highlight of the evening. The fact that they had prepared these works two years ago added a sense of polish and refinement to the pieces that went above and beyond the high standard already in place that evening.

The song "Notre Amour" was an excellent finish to the concert, not only because its title aptly applies to the couple, but also because it was the first piece ever performed by the duo.

Audience members responded enthusiastically to the concert. Said Karl Whittington '04, "I thought the concert was a really nice culmination of Mary's time at Middlebury — she's had so many lovely performances, and it was nice to see her finish up singing with Daniel, and with such great music." John Linsky '06 described Koppel's performance as "beautiful."

All in all, their fantastic performance of the French art songs showed that Montgomery and Koppel have earned a place among the *crème de la crème* of Middlebury's music majors, past and present.

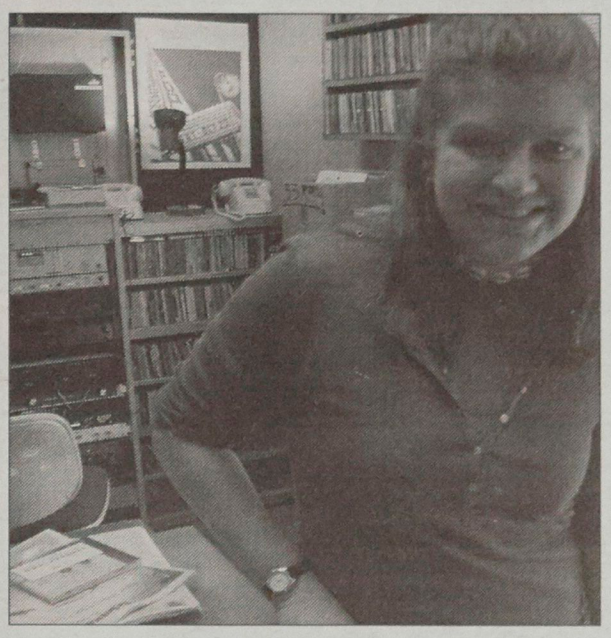


Albert Bitici

All alone on stage, senior Mary Montgomery sings one of the eleven songs she performed during the evening.

OFFAIR

WITH NAME ALISON LACIVITA



Recalling elephant show memories

NAME? Alison Lacivita

MAJOR? English/Creative Writing

NAME OF YOUR SHOW? "Hey, do you girls like Joy Division?" It's a pick-up line I watched a friend at home use.

SHOW'S TIME-SLOT? Friday 3:30 to 5 p.m.

DESCRIBE THE TYPE OF MUSIC THAT YOU PLAY. Indie rock with a bit of hip-hop/electronica mixed in.

WHY DO YOU PLAY THE MUSIC YOU DO? I play what I like. I don't really have an underlying reason why.

WHAT THREE ALBUMS/ARTISTS ARE IN YOUR CD PLAYER RIGHT NOW? Modest Mouse's "Good News For People Who Love Bad News," Mice Parade's "Obrigado Saudade" and Mouse On Mars' "Niun Niggung."

WHAT BOOK IS ON YOUR BEDSIDE TABLE RIGHT NOW? "The Death And Life Of Great American Cities" by Jane Jacobs and "The Corrections" by Jonathan Franzen.

BEST ALBUM OF ALL TIME? The Smiths' "The Queen Is Dead."

IF YOU COULD RESURRECT ANY FAMOUS DEAD PERSON AND HAVE LUNCH WITH HIM/HER, WHO WOULD IT BE? Oscar Wilde.

GREATEST MUSICAL TRIUMPH EVER? When I was five, I went to see Sharon, Lois and Braham's Elephant Show. I got to meet the elephant.

GREATEST MUSICAL TRAVESTY EVER? I also met Jimmy Sturr, the polka king, at the Schagticoke Fair.

IF YOU COULD HAVE ANY SUPERPOWER, WHAT WOULD IT BE? To be a Teenage Mutant Ninja Turtle. Preferably Donatello.

FAVORITE CURSE-WORD? They're all fine.

FAVORITE VIRTUE? The ability for someone to sit at a table with you and not feel the need to talk constantly.

FAVORITE VICE? People who are condescending.

WHAT ARE YOU MOST KNOWN FOR? My undying passion for The Weather Channel. Or my 13 parking tickets.

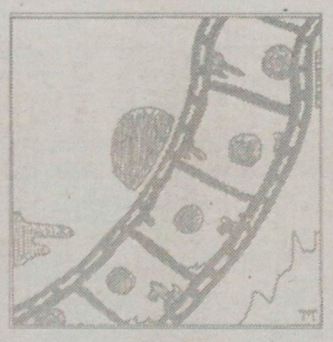
WHAT QUOTE DO YOU LIVE BY? "Real straight talk about souls, for life is holy and every moment precious" — Jack Kerouac

DO YOU SUFFER FROM ANY PHOBIAS? Spiders, people touching my spine and "The OC."

MOST TREASURED POSSESSION? My teddy bear from when I was little. I call him "bear."

IN TEN YEARS, YOU WILL BE? Not in Albany, N.Y.

— ERIKA MERCER, ARTS EDITOR



THE REEL CRITIC

BY AARON STRUMWASSER

MOVIE | DAZED AND CONFUSED
DIRECTOR | RICHARD LINKLATER
STARRING | BEN AFFLECK, MATTHEW McCONAUGHEY

What's my favorite movie of all time? It depends on my mood. When I'm angry but feeble, ready to attack a nearby pillow, it's "Raging Bull." When I'd like to get in touch with not one but two of my feminine sides, it's "Persona." When the idea of getting a diploma seems far-fetched, it's "Aguirre: The Wrath of God." But right now, just before the end of the school year, my favorite movie is "Dazed and Confused."

Nabokov's statement about literature, "One cannot read a book: one can only re-read it," applies to movies as well. What makes "Dazed and Confused" a great movie is that you can watch it immediately after finishing it. Whereas, after seeing a movie like "2001: A Space Odyssey," you're ready for a vacation from movies altogether — for at least a few millennia.

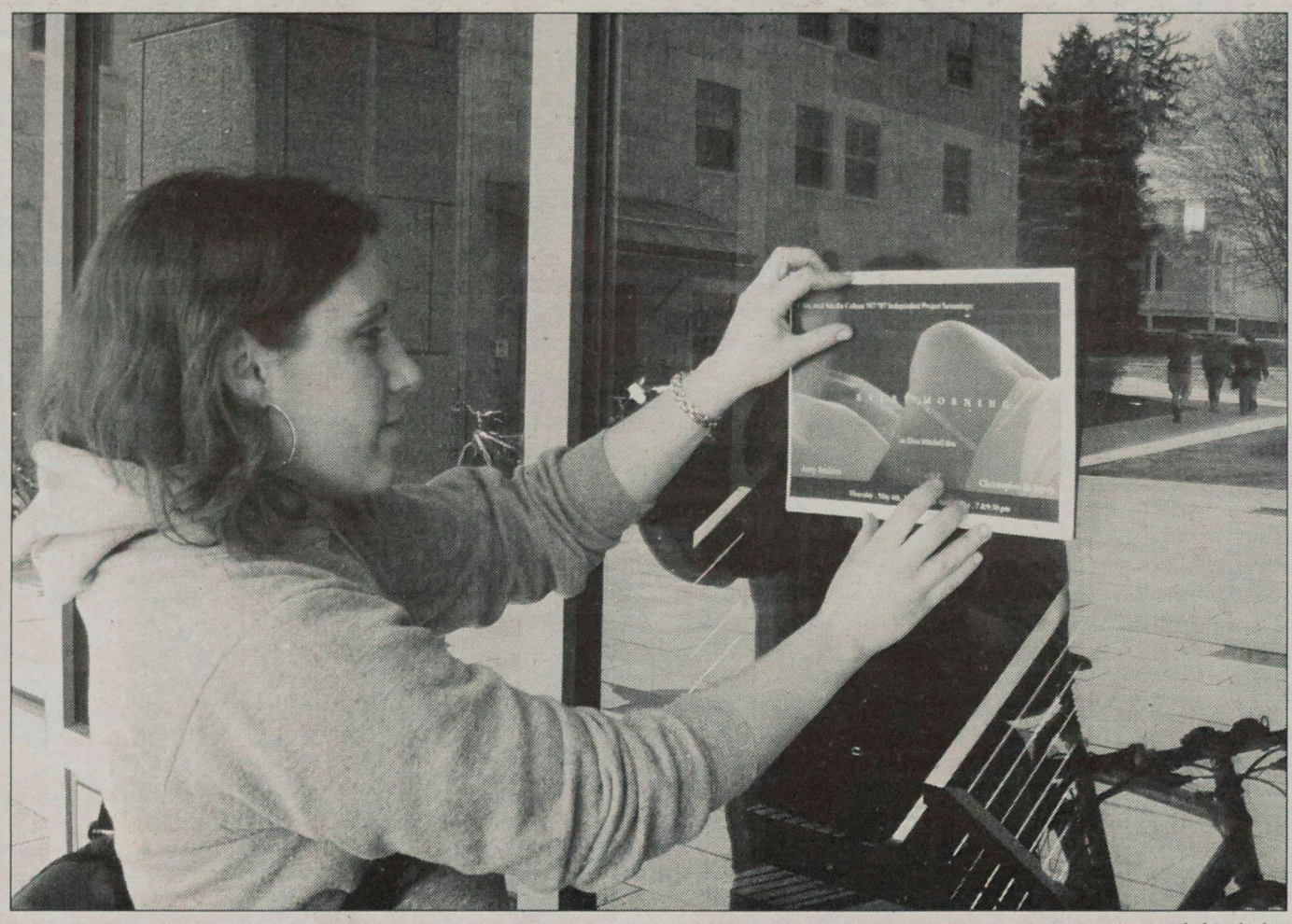
"Dazed and Confused," in contrast to "2001," embraces, rather than subvert, time. Director Richard Linklater makes the film's 90 minutes magically account for the near 24 hours that pass in the characters' lives. And, boy, are there a lot of characters — mostly defiant high school seniors-to-be and wary incoming freshmen. There are also two guys — one long-ago graduated, the other held back — who should have left the high school scene years ago, and are played by two actors — Ben Affleck and Matthew McConaughey — who should have left the acting scene years ago.

The danger in having an ensemble cast, of course, is that the audience might end up caring about nobody instead of everybody, getting types instead of characters. But behind the actions of Linklater's youths are interestingly vague motivations. Take the star quarterback, who refuses to sign a pledge against substance abuse of any kind by players. He seems to want to relieve himself of the townspeople's expectations for a state championship. Or perhaps he really can't bear the idea of a whole year without the stuff. The film itself certainly needs it. Marijuana is the closest thing it has to a main character. It influences most, if not all, of what people say and do. It pervades the film.

The first scene is of a car rolling into a parking lot, the second of something illicit being rolled. A caption tells us it's just before the end of the last day of school, in 1976. Classes are in session, but Linklater's youths are either paying no attention or hanging out in unmonitored hallways and homey bathrooms. And if anyone is going to be punished, it's the incoming freshmen, for whom paddles are being made, rather academically for a change, in shop class. "Dazed and Confused" is hardly that wholesome, unassuming sitcom "Saved by the Bell" — more like "Was That a Bell?"

It's amusing, how artificially oblivious these kids are. The first few times you see it, that is. As you grow older, though, and re-watch it, you come down from the comic high. Character arcs come into focus, and the idea of their five- or 10-year reunion sounds depressing, not to mention undeserving of cameramen. No sequels, please.

DIRECTOR'S CUT



Vlad Lodoaba

Eliza Mitchell '04 puts up posters advertising her movie, "Every Morning", starring exchange student Amy Jenkins and Christopher Richards '04, which is to be screened on Thursday at 7 p.m. and 9:30 p.m. in Dana Auditorium. Eliza is one of the six students (along with Bernadette Gunn '04, Jason Farkas '04, Shon Hedges '04, Alex Reiser '04 and Peter Yordan '04) who will be presenting their 507/707 Independent Projects.

is it art?

A LOOK AT THOSE WHO DARE TO STRETCH THE CREATIVE LIMITS

A buss, a lip or an osculate. A peck, a smack, a smooch or a snug. Regardless of what you call it, this gesture of greeting and affection has been around since the dawn of time. It's the most widely used salutation and the prelude to all mating rituals. The cavemen did it, and we're stilling doing it today. If you haven't caught on, I'm talking about the eternal art of lip locking.

According to the dictionary, the kiss is a caress with the lips. Four words, however, is not sufficient enough to define an entire way of expression. Just like any other art, kissing is a skill acquired by experience, study and observation. There are countless styles and approaches. Kisses run the gamut from first timers to the intimate, give-me-some-ice-to-cool-off type and from the I'm-just-doing-it-to-be-polite kind to the Hollywood-esque hyper-dramatic ones.

The origins of kissing can be traced back to primitive times, when mothers cradled their children. Many ancient tribes paid homage to their chief by kissing the ground over which he has walked.

Early Romans kissed each other on the mouth to greet one another in a manner they deemed to be dignified. One Roman emperor even ranked a persons importance by the body part he was allowed to kiss. He allowed important nobles to kiss his lips and the least important ones to kiss his feet.

In the sixth century, society accepted the custom of kissing between adults as an expression of their affection. To no surprise, France first accepted kissing in courtship. At the time, figure dancing was the popular and each dance was concluded with a kiss. The custom of kissing swept from France through Europe towards Russia, where the nobility immediately adopted the French practice. Eventually, the kiss was incorporated into marriage ceremonies, where it is continued today.

With the summer's eve sun heating up Middlebury and courting behavior on the rise, I thought we all might benefit from an investigation on the art of kissing. For my survey I ask my weekly readers about the art of kissing.

Lindsay Russell '06 believes, "[A good kiss should be] full of variety, tenderness, confidence." Anna Strimaitis '06.5 recommends, "Experiment, surprise your partner with what your tongue can do."

Deb Tennen '06 suggested, "For guys, take control [...] but keep it slow and sweet." She added, "A girl always likes it when you tuck her hair behind her ear for her."

Exchange Student Anna North shares her knowledge, acquired from across the Atlantic: "I think the best kisses are when both people are relaxed." Her Brit pal Amy Jenkins adds, "The key to a great kiss is in the connection, when you find the right person, you'll know."

Alex Castillo-Kesper '05 advised, "Be creative and understand your partner's lips. Trace his or her lips with yours — understand the contours of your mate's lips. Now try kissing them without tongue. You will enjoy your mate's lips so much now that when the tongue is included in your lip smacking — it will be graciously welcomed, and not feared."

Junior Hans Manzke so diplomatically pointed out, "There are no bad kisses, only uninformed ones. No one is a perfect kisser, and no matter how good you are, there's always something more you can learn."

Based on my study, I came to the conclusion that great kissing is defined by variety. Like a musical composition, you should vary the intensity, the tempo and the duration of a kiss. The two things that should be avoided at all costs—bad breath (Ughh!) and too much tongue (we're not throwing darts). But the ultimate secret to skillful kissing is responsiveness. Pay attention to what your partner enjoys and he or she will respond your likings.

Leigh Arsenault '06.5 expressed it best: "Of course [kissing is an art]—and to form a masterpiece requires diligence on the part of the artist. Find your partner and make a splash on the canvas." So find somebody to pucker up with and practice, so you could get your perfect smooch on this weekend!

— CHRIS GROSSO,
ARTS EDITOR

Kushner's creativity marvels students

By Lanford Beard
Staff Writer

On an average Wednesday at the end of April, Dana Auditorium is packed with students, faculty, townspeople, an Angel, the ghosts of three Iraqi children and First Lady Laura Bush. Mrs. Bush begins by reading "The Brothers Karamazov" and then launches into a rant about the children's pajamas and the necessity of sacrifice. The audience surges with waves of laughter and disgust.

In a metatheatrical moment to be reckoned with, it was not in fact Laura Bush who read to Middlebury that afternoon, but Tony Kushner — assisted by narrator Liz Myers '04 and Cassidy Freeman '04.5 as the Angel — who unveiled the first scene of his play-in-progress, "Only We Who Guard the Mystery Shall Be Unhappy."

Because Kushner's work takes a decidedly political bent, it was fitting that Kateri Carmola, assistant professor of political science, recalled in her introduction Kushner's instruction to her and her fellow classmates at New York University's Tisch School of Arts to read the entire front page of *The New York Times* every day in order to "reacquire their minds."

Loosely based on the connections between art and politics, thought and action, the reading and interview with Kushner were surprisingly lighthearted. One would imagine the playwright — whose acclaimed works include "A Bright Room Called Day" and the Pulitzer Prize-, Tony- and Golden Globe-winning "Angels in America" to be more dismal, more brooding, more angry.

Courtesy

It is precisely this political ire, however, that allows Kushner to create his groundbreaking art and then release it to the public. Kushner views his art as at once a means of expression and a legitimate, living political entity. Through his art, he exercises his own demons and what he sees as those of the country.

Most recently, Kushner has been preparing the debuts of two pieces — "Caroline or Change," a musical about the post-Civil Rights South that began previews on Broadway Sunday, and the prescient pre-September 11 play "Homebody/Kabul," about a woman obsessed with Afghani culture, which opens at the Brooklyn Academy of Music on May 11.

With plays addressing Nazis, Negroes, Afghanistan and AIDS, Kushner tackles current debates with style, fantasticality and intelligence. Almost exclusively set in the past, his works examine the fabric of American society then and now, forcing viewers to identify parallels and calling them to act immediately.

As evidenced by the scene from the in-house reading, Kushner draws his characters with simultaneously broad and subtle strokes. Infusing Mrs. Bush with the Southern drawl-inflected, well-intentioned ignorance accorded to her husband's administration, Kushner has her say to the spirit of a dead Iraqi child, "It's really terrible you had to die because your country is run by such an evil man. It was necessary for you to die, honey, sweetie, precious…" Then in a typically Kushnerian catharsis, the First Lady flips the dogma of her earlier statements and transforms it into a torrential downpour of rage over the false righteousness that exacts such "wages of war" as the death of hundreds of thousands of innocent children.

Liberally historicizing, Kushner encourages viewers, readers and average Americans to take a revisionist perspective in troublesome political times. Appropriately enough, the interview ended with a discussion of America's past, present and future.

He recalled his invitation, during the success of "Angels in America" to write a State of the Union address for Bill Clinton. He opted instead to write a personal letter to the then-President, whom Kushner respected as "deeply progressive," and make suggestions about how to get the country back on track. Then he discussed some of the black-and-white, "unforgivable" politics of George W. Bush after 9/11.

Civil unions took center stage as the last topic for Kushner to discuss, and he spoke hopefully about the power of the federal government's ideal role as champion and protector of minority rights. He lamented, "The last 25 years have been about the undoing" of this role, but concludes, "in the next 10 years, gay marriage will happen."

Dana Yeaton '79, visiting lecturer in theater and playwright of the recently performed "Midwives," directed his interview in an intelligent, thought-provoking and conversational manner, yet the time with Kushner on the whole seemed painfully short.

Positioning himself as a man with all the right questions and some of the answers to the biggest problems of the last several decades, Kushner brought to Middlebury a sense of political, artistic and academic immediacy that is often sorely missed in these rural parts.

Class dances into the natural world

By Kelsey Smith
Staff Writer

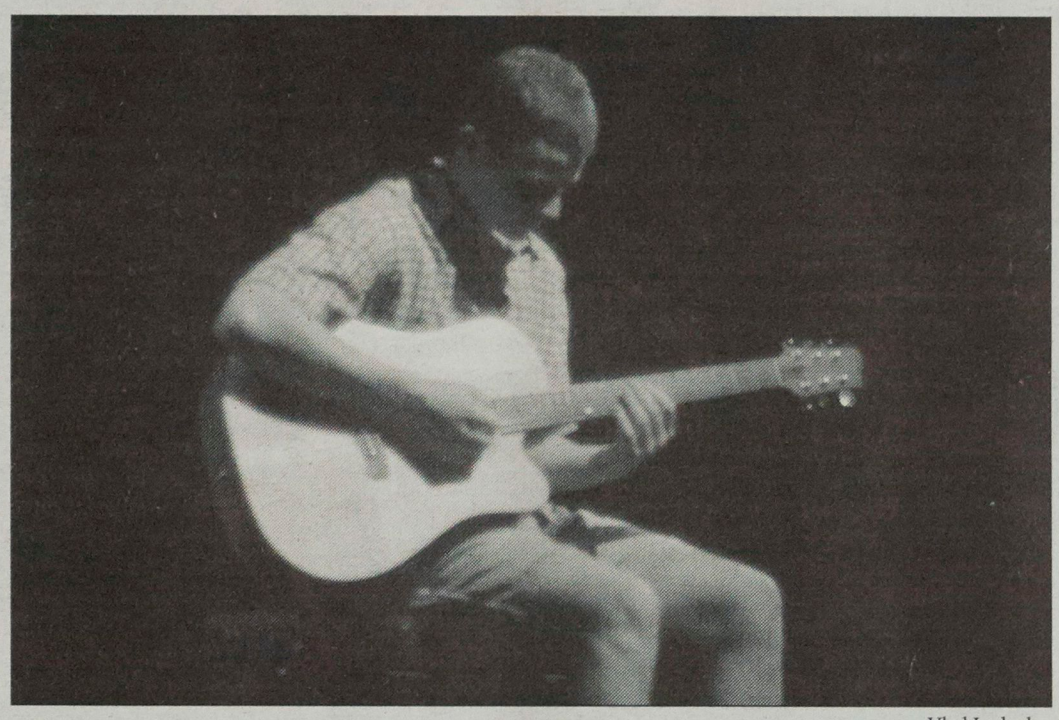
This Sunday afternoon the Theater and Dance Departments presented the final projects of students enrolled in "Nature and Creativity." Co-taught by Stewart Professor of English and Environmental Studies John Elder and Professor of Dance Andrea Olsen, the course combined environmental science and dance to explore the relationship between the natural and creative processes.

During the semester, students participated in outdoor sessions of observation, journal writing and sketching as a means of fulfilling the necessary daily practice required to develop creative ability. Both Elder and Olsen agreed that their students should maintain the level of spontaneity and risk necessary for breaking boundaries.

Combined with these outside exercises, students spent time indoors working on authentic movement, reading essays by contemporary nature writers and viewing films of nature-based art work. All of these exercises, as well as the culminating public presentation, explored the dialogue between individual work and collaborative process as well as the correlation between nature and human beings. Continuing the emphasis on dialogue, Elder and Olsen addressed the audience after the performance.

Elder explained that the class is deeply rooted in improvisation that draws from life experience. The students' work exhibited the variety of their human experiences, from the human geography of rock-climbing to the "tourism pandemic" in New Zealand to the effects of a father's work on a daughter's art.

Though it is difficult to describe the works as a whole since the media used were so varied, several themes recurred, including the absurdity of urbanized or corporate life compared to the natural world. In his work entitled "Details of Experience," which coupled photography and movement, Ben Brouwer '04 found that "ridiculous, playful and wholly absurd manners of expressive embodiment are essential as a mode of interacting with the natural environment."



Vlad Lodoaba

Andrew Peters '06, a student in "Nature and Creativity," performs a musical piece that reflects his relationship to the natural environment.

Photographs of himself in the natural environment clothed in various playful manners and often wearing dress shoes gave the audience the impression that the piece held greater social commentary. This sentiment was echoed by the rhymes of Raime Masket-Roth '04, who discussed the banality of the over-competitive "doing it every day" rut that urbanites and even academics often fall into.

A performance by Olsen combined movement, text and music by Andrew Peters '04 and provided an opportunity for her to pose questions to her students and the audience. While interpreting Vermont spring through movement, Olsen asked us if we had surprised ourselves yet. It was evident that she encouraged this sort of self-expression and exploration throughout the course.

A number of majors and interests were represented — Japanese studies, environmental studies, biology, geography.

The exhibit included a number of visual art installations in the lobbies and foyer of the Center for the Arts complex, which will be on display for the remainder of the semester.

LITERARY PICKS

BY EDWARD PICKERING

TITLE
VERNON GOD LITTLE
AUTHOR
D.B.C. PIERRE
PUBLICATION DATE
2003

Winner of the 2003 Man Booker Prize, D. B. C. Pierre's "Vernon God Little" is a dark comedy told through the voice of a 15-year-old whose pal has just slain 16 of their high-school classmates in a mass-murder-suicide.

Vernon Little is as cynical as they come, an adolescent whirlwind of cutting remarks and four-letter condemnations in the god-forsaken backwater of Martirio, Texas — a town reeling in the aftermath of the school tragedy. As the novel opens Vernon finds himself in prison, suspected of being an accomplice to the murderer, his best friend Jesus. Not surprisingly the national media descends on the town, spotlighting its residents but hungering after one in particular— awkward, scrawny Vernon. Having made bail, Vernon escapes the noose of reporters and cameramen and police officers and heads to Houston, where a former schoolmate, the incomparably beautiful Taylor Figueroa, lives. Shortly thereafter,Vernon then lights out to Mexico. Unfortunately for him, though, Taylor follows.

One of the most unsympathetic portrayals of American life in recent memory, D. B. C. Pierre's debut novel is set in a hellhole and populated by grotesque but wonderfully amusing characters. Overweight townsfolk heave and lurch through the chapters. One, Palmyra, loves nothing more than nonstop meals at the Bar-B-Chew Barn.

Written at a frenetic pace in a riotously funny voice, "Vernon God Little" is a master parody of American society. Polite and subtle it isn't. Crude, irreverent and raucous it is.

Listen to Vernon describe his mother:

"'Howdy pardner,'she says to me, dripping with that cutsey-shucksy Chattanooga-buddy-boy shit she started when I first showed evidence of having a dick. [. . .] I pull away, in vain because she chases me, covers me with spit and lipstick and fuck knows what else. Placenta, probably."

If readers discover distasteful passages in the novel, they will find far more objectionable material in the private history of D. B. C. Pierre, whose initials stand for "Dirty But Clean." In an interview given directly after his acceptance speech for the Booker Prize (you have to see this speech to believe it) Pierre vowed to repay his creditors with the prize money. 'Creditors' is perhaps the wrong word — 'victims of theft' is a more accurate phrase.

"Vernon God Little" is the literary equivalent of a stiff, stiff drink — heady and hilarious. Just make sure you can stomach it.

Feelin' the Riddim during 'Halftime' show

By Hans Manzke
Staff Writer

The Riddim World Dance troupe's Spring Show, entitled "Halftime," brought more than a full night's worth of cultural entertainment to Middlebury College. Riddim is a vital student group on campus, a reflection of Middlebury's culturally diverse student body. It is a widely recognized fact that diversity is an integral part of a meaningful college and life experience. Through dance and other forms of performance, Riddim fills the role of cultural purveyor to the larger college community.

Friday night's show was a virtuosic display of rhythm and ability. Every member of the troupe displayed the ability to dance persuasively, oftentimes trumping the choreography seen from popular performers. Without a doubt, pure entertainment was present and at times prevalent, but director Toni Spence '04 structured individual acts in such a way that cultural education and diversity prevailed. It was immediately apparent that tremendous time and effort was put into "Halftime" by show coordinators, individual choreographers and each troupe member. Hip hop, pan-Latin, Indian and many other dance forms coalesced into a cohesive whole, thrilling an absolutely packed McCullough Social Space.

Proceeds from the event's extensive ticket sales went to the Angel Award, an honor given to one outstanding sophomore woman of color at Middlebury in remembrance of the lives of Anisa Gamble, Tiffany Holmes, Iniko Johnson and Maika Simone.

One of the many highlights of the night was senior Crystal Belle's poetry performance. Her incisive socio-moral commentary never fails to challenge, inform and amaze. Her piece entitled "Ugly" was especially salient in a society that places such importance on physicality and looks. Homogeneity is what some people feel they need, but the beauty of being different, and most importantly, being yourself, was communicated strikingly in Belle's words and delivery.

Judging from the fact that McCullough was packed to the doors for the first showing, and undoubtedly for the second as well, the Riddim Spring Show was a profound success. Attendance aside, the true triumph of "Halftime" was its inherent ability to present a non-singular view of our existence as Americans and members of a global social community. There is a whole world beyond U.S. borders. Regrettably, many Americans fail to explore the multitude of cultures that exist outside of their own experience. It is inspiring to know that so many people are being exposed to such comprehensively vital aspects of different cultures.

In presenting events like "Halftime" to the student body, the Riddim Dance Troupe broadened community horizons while providing top-class entertainment.

Above: **Riddim Director Toni Spence '04 twirled around her partner's body in last weekend's dance production.** *Below:* **Troupe members exhibit unmatched intensity as they deliver their routines.** *Below left:* **Sara Stranovsky grooves to the beat.**
Photos by Albert Bitici

Mother-daughter saga stuns Zoo audience

By Zoey Burrows
Staff Writer

Mother and daughter, husband and wife, big sister and little sister, these are the relationships that make life so rich, so real and yet often so painful as well. The portrayal of these relationships is what made last weekend's Hepburn Zoo Theatre show so good and so intensely real. Unlike many of the Zoo's avant-garde and often rather dark student-directed shows, "My Mother Said I Never Should," directed by Marieka Peterson '04, was refreshingly real-to-life and optimistic in many aspects.

From old Grannie Doris born in 1900, played by Caitlin Dennis '06.5, to her great granddaughter Rosie born in 1971, played by Julia Proctor '06.5, the all-female cast spanned four generations of women. Daughters and mothers alike, the characters were moving for their powerful statement that a mother's influence endures forever, dictating her daughter's actions and behaviors even into adulthood and usually long after. The play also explored the nature of one's expectations and how these expectations color a person's perspective on life. Not only were the all-too-often smothering expectations of a mother explored and deplored, but later in the play two of the women mused together that their own "expectations were too high," creating their own disappointment.

Jenkins rendered her character even closer to the audience's heart with her facial expressions and warm energy.

The audience learned about each woman's life through a jumbled series of flashbacks and fast-forwards in time. This stylistic element, which required multiple costume changes, must have been taxing on the small cast, but they did not falter, coming in timely on all entrances.

Another notable stylistic aspect was the interspersed lapses into the "child's world," when the actresses all reverted to being the little girls they were introduced to us as, plotting to kill their mothers with a voodoo spell, which they of course never do, tattling on the girl whose idea it was. While this stylistic tool was at first confusing, it was ultimately a powerful instrument in illustrating what the four women were like before their innocence was gone, when they told the truth about everything they thought, even if it was not pleasant to hear (like Rosie does). Despite the multiple time shifts and lapses into the "children's world," the play maintained a refreshingly realistic mood, one with which we could easily identify.

Although the play had no male characters, it could be appreciated by men as well as by women, because it was just as much a play about mothers as it is about children and adolescents coming of age and sexual experiences later on. The conflict in the play — the youngest daughter Rosie's misinformed knowledge of the identity of her true mother — is maintained until the bitter end, leaving the audience to marvel at how easily such a misperception could be created and maintained in real life, with boy or girl.

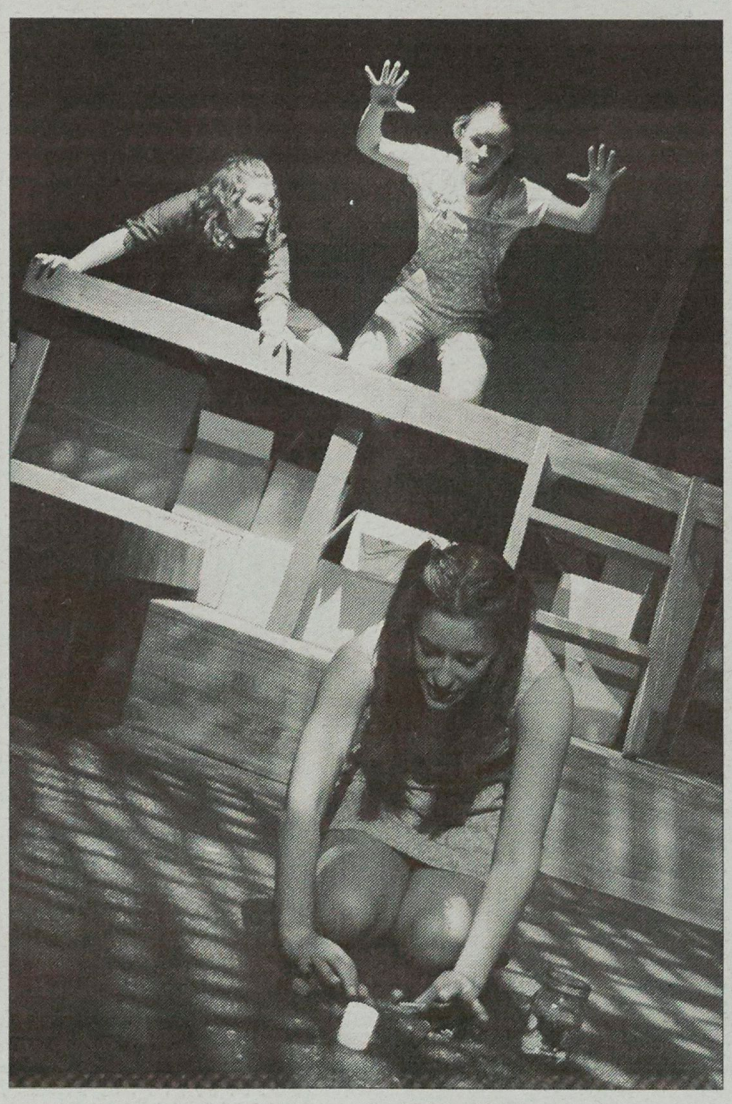
May Boeve '06.5 did an especially fine job playing Doris' daughter Margaret, who growing up in the war era rebels against her mother and marries an American man. However, as Boeve skillfully portrayed, much like her own mother, Margaret was then strict and stiff of speech with her daughter Jackie, played by Amy Jenkins '05.

A native of England, Jenkins was certainly one of the strongest links in the quartet, and said that she "had a much easier time of it" because she was obviously not struggling with the language as the three other actresses were. Although all four characters were very realistic and moving, Jenkins rendered her character even closer to the audience's heart with her facial expressions and warm energy. We sympathized with her even more when her aloof mother Margaret tried to distance her from her daughter Rosie whom she had turned over to her mother's care.

At the last show, a steaming hot Saturday night, audience members were not allowed into the theater until immediately before the show began. One savvy audience member hypothesized later that the late admittance was probably due to the fact that little Rosie was hidden in a trunk (surely sweltering with heat in minutes) from which she emerged as the lights slowly came up on the set. The heat did not seem to faze the fully-garbed actresses in the least, while audience members fanned themselves to keep cool in the unventilated theatre.

Designed by Katie Polembaum '06.5, the beautifully furnished set was another highlight of the show, picturesque and yet not overdone. A horizontal view of a living room with a swing in the garden to the left, it was impressive for its old-fashion detail.

Peterson's mature and attentive direction resulted in a heartfelt drama that left the audience pondering about the timeless relationships of mothers and their daughters.



Top: **Amy Jenkins '05 as a mother who just gave up her child, dramatically clutches her baby's clothing as she reflects on her decision.** *Above:* **Rosie, played by Julia Proctor '06.5, slowly lifts the cover to the old chest, signaling the beginning of the production.** *Below left:* **In a flashback, Caitlin Dennis '06.5, Julia Proctor '06.5 and Amy Jenkins '05 bring to life childhood voodoo practices.**

Photos by Albert Bitici and Vlad Lodoaba

Baltica Quartet strings vibrant score

By Laura Rockefeller
Staff Writer

The polite applause that greeted Gidon Kremer and Kremerata Baltica Quartet's appearance on the stage in the Center for the Arts Concert Hall on Sunday afternoon turned into an enthralled silence as the deep, rich tones of the viola filled the vast space.

The afternoon's performance of music by Russian composers, entitled "Shostakovich and after," included the Adagio from Dmitri Shostakovich's mesmerizing "String Quartet, No. 13," his "String Quartet, No. 15" and Alfred Schnittke's atmospheric "String Trio."

From the moment the violins and cello joined the viola, entering as with one voice — the three different instruments so beautifully blended that they were indistinguishable from each other — it was clear that this was going to be a very special performance.

Their gentle movements were a graceful expression of the performers' relationship to the music and their sympathy for the nostalgia that the sounds evoked.

The program notes remarked that Shostakovich's music is regarded as "conveying moods and, as some would argue, experiences and even political messages in notes." Whether or not the messages were political, the music performed on Sunday certainly spoke to the performers and to the audience.

"Quartet 13" was undoubtedly the highlight of the performance. The piece sounded like voices telling a story — moments of discord were relieved by the plaintive voice of the violin clearing the air for the cello, which uttered its deep cries before retiring again into the background.

As the piece built towards its climax, the instruments' voices intensified until they grew to sound angry, and the musicians themselves were slicing their bows sharply through the air like knives.

The Quartet is the third in a series of compositions Shostakovich dedicated to the members of the Beethoven Quartet in acknowledgment of their partnership.

Perhaps the conversation of these different voices in the Quartet expressed some of the difficult times and varying emotions that the group had seen together in mid-20th century Russia.

The reflective quality of the piece, combined with a knowledge of the composer's background, brought to mind Alexey Titarenko's ghostly photographs of St. Petersburg in the "City of Shadows" in the Museum of Art earlier this year.

The Schnittke trio that was performed between the Shostakovich pieces set a very different tone right from the opening.

It first seemed to promise a lyrical and bright melody but then this melody was disturbingly punctuated with ominous discord.

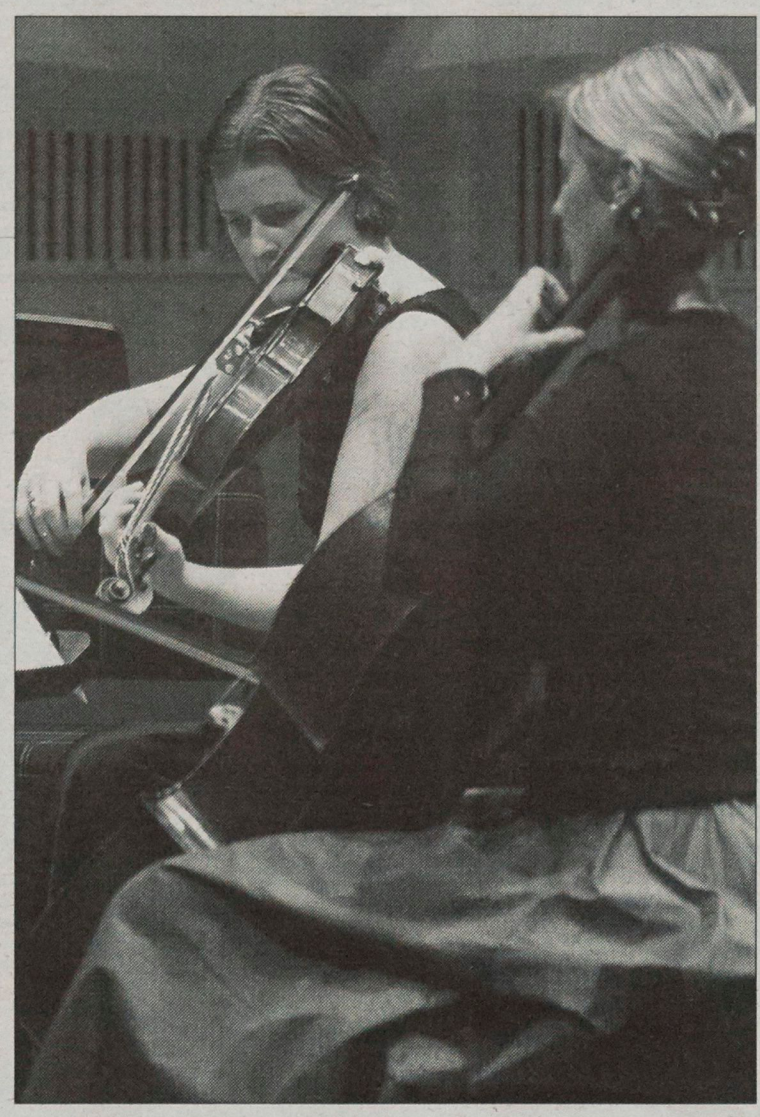
The immediacy with which the atmosphere of the room changed after only a few measures of the trio bore out Kremer's statement, "music can overcome all barriers of language and culture," as without words the music was certainly communicating to the audience.

This Schnittke piece, however, seemed less organic than the Shostakovich quartets, in which the instruments had appeared to blend effortlessly.

In the Schnittke the violist and cellist were more clearly watching Kremer to bring them in and to keep them together.

Despite the fact that it did not seem quite as effortless as the first piece, the intense power and true emotion of the trio was still remarkable. The instruments sounded almost in pain while they rushed into the piece's climax of beautiful frenzy that gradually filled the space.

At the conclusion of the performance, the Baltic Quartet received a standing ovation, performed an encore ("one more Shostakovich adagio," Kremer announced bashfully), received another standing ovation and would probably have received a third if they had played again.



Vlad Lodoaba

With last weekend's performance, the Kremerata Baltica Quartet concluded the CFA's concert series.

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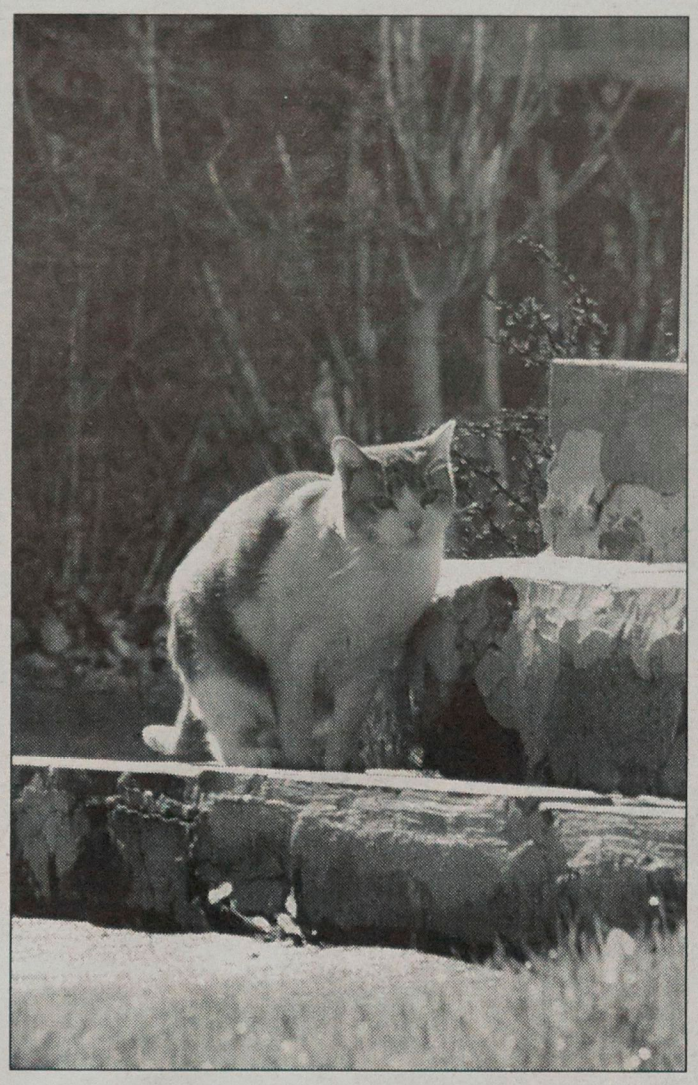
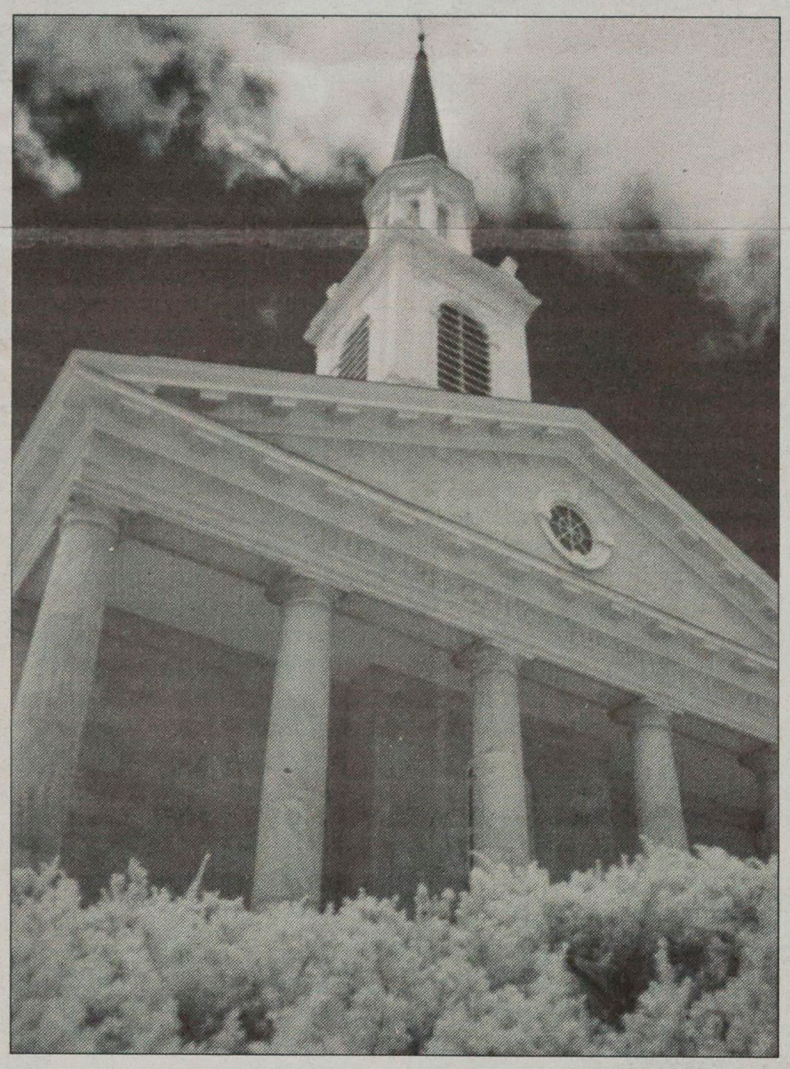
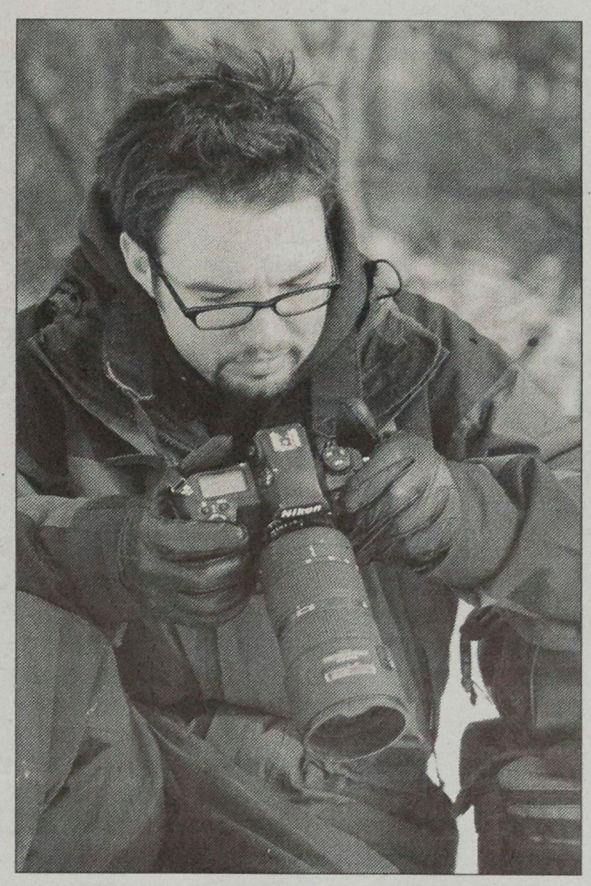
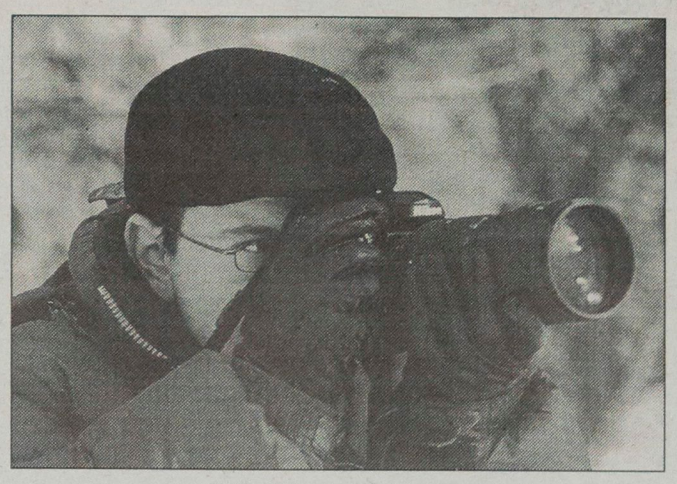


VS.

campus photo editors vlad lodoaba (left) and albert bitici (right) capture springtime in vermont. here, they flex their artistic muscles, after spending a good portion of the year covering sports, arts and news events for the newspaper.







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Track sets individual records at team's finale

By Tom McCann
Sports Editor

After a strong showing at the NESCAC Championships in late April, the Middlebury men's and women's track and field teams were primed and ready for the Division III New England Championships where the women headed down to Springfield and the men traveled to Williams. From the 25 competing teams, the women finished sixth and the men eighth.

Jessica Manzer '05, fresh off her second-place finish in the 800m at the NESCACs a week earlier, slashed almost three seconds off her time last weekend to become Middlebury's only female New England Champion. She broke the tape in 2:15.63, snatching the win by less than a tenth of a second. Manzer commented, "It was a really tight pack and it was close right to the end. I led the first lap, was passed on the second and then took the lead again in the final straightaway — it was an exciting race." Maryanne Porter '04 was denied a repeat of her NESCAC Championship-winning performance in the 400m hurdles when she was beaten into second by Jessica Trombly from Tufts, finishing in 1:03.36. Christine Bolger '06 provided the other highlight on the track for Middlebury with her sixth place finish in the 400m, coming home in 1:01.15.

In the field, Sarah Berkowitz '05 was the highest placed finisher, leaping to 10' 2" in the pole vault, which was good enough for third place. Joanna Logue '04 added a top-five finish to the Middlebury point haul when she climbed to 5' 1" in the high jump, while sophomore Whitney Creed also finished fifth in the hammer, propelling her weapon 44.82m on the day. On the team's performance, Manzer said, "We were happy with sixth place because we didn't have very many athletes there. It was tough to come back from NESCACs, but we placed well for the number of people we had."

In Williams, there were no surprises as to which male athletes grabbed the headlines for Middlebury. Kristoph Becker '06 was one of two athletes who garnered New England Champion honors as he looked to be in a different class in the decathlon. Needless to say, Becker ran out a convincing winner as there appears to be no end to the potential of this sophomore. He will be seeded second at the NCAA Nationals later this year. Becker commented, "I was really happy with the way things went for me. I tied a personal record in the high jump and set new PRs in the shot put, 110m hurdles and 100m." He went on to say, "It was a great meet for Middlebury overall with so many athletes setting personal records. We're looking really good at this point." Kevin Bright '06 also took the gold medal is his event, the 400m hurdles. After being denied the opportunity to run in the NESCAC Championships due to injury, he more than made amends by running a sizzling lap, stopping the clock at 53.05. Bright is currently seeded fifth for Nationals. On his race, Bright commented, "It felt good, the weather was warm so the times were good and I had my best time of the year." Nick Digani '05, silver medalist in the 800m at NESCACs, provided the other main highlight in individual events on the track when he finished fifth in the 1500m, coming home in 4:00.24.

It was a great meet for Middlebury overall with so many athletes setting personal records.

— Kristoph Becker '06

Elsewhere, Steve Atkinson '06, who finished third in the NESCACs, secured fifth place in the javelin this past weekend, after a launch of 182' 8" on the day. Finally, as the day wore to an end, there was still time for one last podium finish for Middlebury as the men's 4x100 raced to third place. The team of Liam Aiello '05, Phil Ford '05, Greg Lazerus '06 and Tony Garafano '04 ran a time of 43.24, only bettered by two other teams in the competition.

With the Division III New England Championships out of the way, the Open New Englands are next on the agenda next weekend, when the teams travel to Northeastern University. Following that, the ECAC and then NCAA Championships will round out the season in late May.

On the upcoming challenges Bright noted, "There will be a lot more competition next week, but we're excited about it and we'll see what we can do."

Tennis falls to Amherst

Women's season ends in NCAA regional final

By Tom McCann
Sports Editor

The Middlebury women's tennis season has come to an end, following a defeat to Amherst in the NCAA Regional Final. The loss came a day after the Panthers had ousted Bowdoin in the semi-final. It means that the women conclude their year with an extremely impressive 16-4 record and cementing its place as one of the premier teams in the NESCAC.

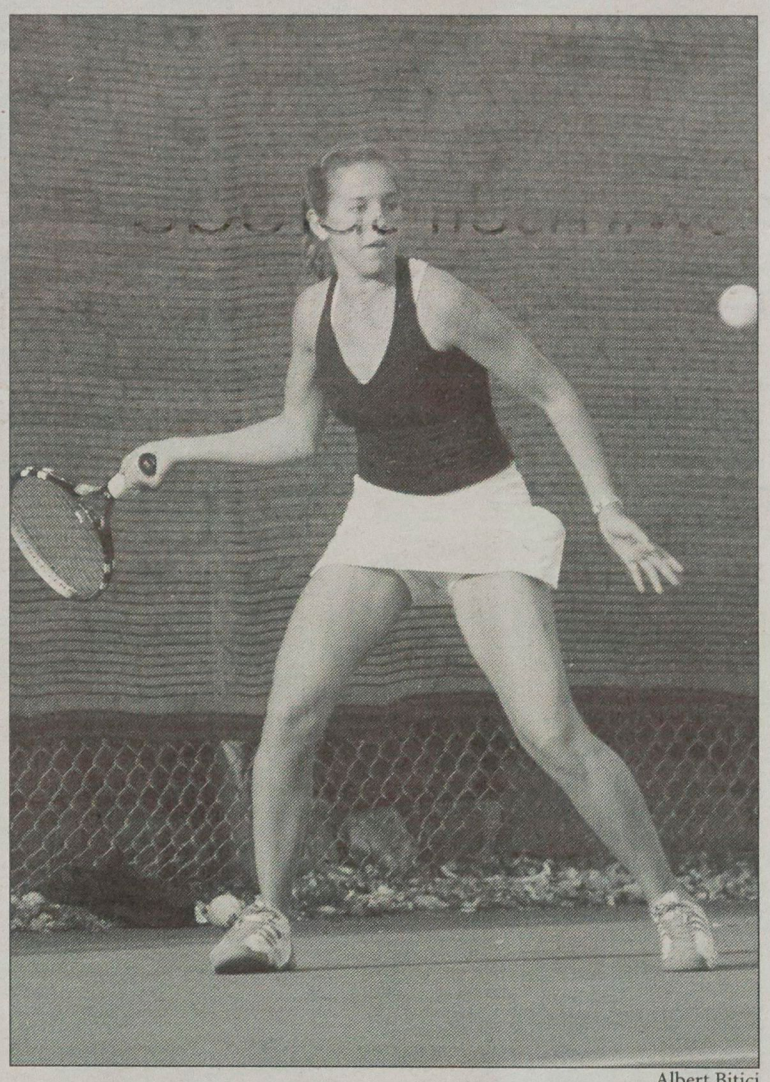
On Friday, the women turned the tables on a Bowdoin team that upset the Panthers 7-2 just seven days prior. Middlebury handed Bowdoin a complete reversal when it counted, dropping the Polar Bears by the same score. In singles action, Jackie Ross '07 and Sandy Spring '04 ran out three set winners, edging their final set 6-0 and 7-5 respectively.

First-year Amy Roche had less trouble dispatching her opponent, winning in two sets, 6-3, 6-2. Claire Smyser '07 and Lauren Ready '05 continued Middlebury's dominance in the singles action, with Smyser taking her match by a score of 6-2, 6-2 and Ready eventually overcoming her counterpart in three sets 7-5, 2-6, 6-3. Kristin Baker '04 fell 2-6, 4-6 in her duel.

On the doubles side, Spring teamed up with Jackie Ross '07, with the combination of youth and experience seeing the pair ease through their game as 8-2 winners. Jena Siegel '04 and Roche cruised through their doubles match to win by the same score.

The loss suffered by Baker and Smyser in the final doubles match mattered little by that point, meaning that the Panthers emerged from their match with Bowdoin with a gutsy 7-2 victory. Perhaps most impressive about the win is the character shown by the team to reverse the scoreline from just a week before.

On April 11, Amherst became one of only three teams all season to beat the Panters when it escaped with a tight 5-4 victory in Middlebury. When the teams met up in the NCAA Regional Final, the Middlebury women went looking for revenge, while the Lord Jeffs tried to recapture the form that too them past the Panthers earlier in the season.



Albert Bitici

Amy Roche '07 — NESCAC's rookie of the year — takes aim during practice prior to Middlebury's trip to Amherst, who defeated the Panthers 7-2.

It was always going to be a tight match and few were surprised when the six singles matches were split three apiece. Ross and Spring both dispatched of their opponents in straight sets 6-4, 6-3 and 6-3, 6-3 respectively. Ready was locked in a tight one when her opponent retired with the score tied at 5-7, 7-5 giving Middlebury its third win of the day. Smyser battled through her match and forced a third set after winning the second 6-3, only to lose the decider by a score of 6-5. Roche fell 6-4, 6-2, while Baker also lost in straight sets 6-2, 6-4, leaving the match delicately poised going into the doubles section.

Unfortunately, where in their previous meeting the Panthers had managed to take two out of the three doubles matches, Amherst won all three when the season was on the line. Ross and Spring fell 5-8, as did Siegel and Roche, while Baker and Smyser lost 1-8 in their match.

The defeat means that the women's tennis season comes to a close, but with just three departing seniors, optimism is high for next season. The consistently high level of play from the rookies has been a major reason for Middlebury's success this year and can only bode well for the future of the team.

Baseball drops pivotal home game

By Ryan Reese
Sports Editor

Throughout the winter training sessions and early spring, the Middlebury men's baseball team looked poised to make a run at the top teams in the NESCAC. With athleticism and talent across the field and behind the plate, the Panthers had high hopes. Unfortunately, ultimate success escaped this talented squad as they handed the NESCAC tournament bid over to Amherst this past weekend. By dropping the three game series at their own Forbes Field, the Panthers fell into third place in the NESCAC West and out of postseason contention.

It was all uphill for the Panthers as they dropped Friday afternoon's opener to Amherst by a count of 9-2. Goose eggs lined the scorecard through the first four innings of cat and mouse. Both teams repeatedly stranded base runners throughout the early innings and were unable to come up with the crucial RBI. The cathartic fifth inning saw the Panthers err and lose control of their fielding abilities. The ground ball eluded the Middlebury infield while the Lord Jeffs would collect six runs in the seventh inning to seal the victory. Middlebury collected only four hits on the day while collecting the same number of errors. Although it faced an uphill battle in Saturday's season-determining double dip, the team remained confident. After the 9-2 defeat, sophomore hurler Tyler Bak noted, "We need solid fielding and we cannot afford any more errors. We have some strong pitchers going tomorrow and taking two games is not out of the question. We aren't done yet."

The playoff implications during Saturday's opener were palpable as the battle lines were drawn on Forbes Field and both sides dug in for what would end up being a defensive struggle. Chris Fraser '04 was near perfect during his six innings of work on the mound allowing only two hits and one earned run. That one run in the second inning proved to be the difference. A well-executed double steal from first and third plated the game's only run for Amherst. Ryan Armstrong '06, Jim Muhlfield '04 and Dev Talvadkar '05 had Middlebury's only three hits and the Panther defense once again colleted an equal amount of errors.

Playing for pride alone in the second contest, the Panthers refused to lie down and die. After a long weekend without an offensive spark, the Panthers' bats came to life during a 9-4 win. Down a run in the bottom of the sixth, the Panthers knocked in six runs to seal the victory. Dave Reister '05 was solid behind the plate while going 3-5 with a double and a triple as his teammate Muhlfield also had three hits.

Sunday, the Panthers traveled to Bowdoin for the season's final doubleheader. In a display of offensive firepower that saw both sides destroy the other's pitching staff, the Polar Bears and Panthers combined for 52 runs and 51 hits during only two games. Game one, a 15-12 Middlebury loss, saw the Panthers attempt to come back from an early 11-1 deficit. Bowdoin was able to fend off late a rally for the victory. The second game made its way to extra innings after the Polar Bears plated a run in the bottom of the seventh to knot things up at 12. In the extra frame, the Polar Bears emerged victorious although bruised and battered after a player was hit by a pitch to score the winning run.

This season was a success for Panther baseball, but there is no doubt that missed opportunities will be remembered as well. As a whole, the team was talented and able. However they were unable to find a formula that would unite all aspects of the game. When the offense was prevalent, defense faltered and when the web gems flowed, the bats grew cold. The Panthers fell to a final 12-17 mark and will lose some key players to graduation. Although May's ceremonies will result in a big loss for Panther baseball, there is no doubt that they will return to next year's season with high goals.

Midd cheerleading fills its trophy case

Squad's persistence has led to consistent increase in its talent and success

By Ryan Reese
Sports Editor

Anna Rita Pergolizzi '04 was ready to play. Throughout high school, she had played varsity level sports and was ready to play volleyball and rugby at Middlebury. A few weeks into the fall rugby campaign, a hard collision — one that left her and a teammate injured — caused her to make an important decision about her future sporting participation. Pergolizzi remembered thinking, "If I am going to give 100 percent and be absolutely dedicated to success, it should be to an activity that I love and am passionate about."

Hanging up her cleats and kneepads, Pergolizzi founded the Middlebury Co-Ed Cheerleading Squad during her sophomore year. She has been a competive cheerleader since third grade.

During this time she has only cheered at a handful of sporting events as opposed to countless competitions completely devoted to cheerleading. This distinction was important to Pergolizzi and formed her vision of what Midd Cheer — as they now call themselves — would soon become.

Over the past three years, Pergolizzi's vision has gone from seven original members, who were mainly close friends of the founder, and a few small shows for a few spectators to an intense, dedicated squad of 13 members who have carved out a formidable reputation for themselves regional competitions. This success did not come easily.

Practicing three to four times a week for two to three hours, spending countless hours in the gym and just as many at stunt clinics have united this diverse group of spirited students who have elevated their athleticism and talent to an award-winning level.

Pam Moser, or "Mama Moser" to the squad, has pushed the team forward throughout the year as well. Mama Moser, the wife of Michael Moser, head of Facilities Management here at Middlebury, is the team's NCA (National Cheerleading Association) and UCA (Universal Cheerleading Association) certified coach.

Because of the squad's club sport status, she is unpaid despite her incredible commitment and enthusiasm to the team. Her influence and expertise has edged the Panthers toward success and has helped them earn their three trophies this season.

Next year we will look to increase squad numbers, move toward more difficult routines and stunts while being able to compete at a national level.
— Erin Romig

One of next year's co-captains, Erin Romig '06 commented, "There are only three or so people on the team with previous cheering experience. It just goes to show that with hard work, training and commitment one can become a great cheerleader."

With this squad's dedication and the new co-captains' desire, there is no limit to what this group can do. It's a great feeling to know Midd Cheer is in good hands.
— A. Pergolizzi

Moser's commitment and the squad's unrelenting dedication — some of the pillars upon which the squad is built — are not only directed toward the betterment of individual cheering abilities or team cohesiveness. They are dedicated to expansion, growth and recognition in the College community as well. When it comes to these intangibles, Midd Cheer has many more battles to fight.

As a level-two club sport, the squad does not receive funding from the Athletic Department. They are able to obtain minimal support from the Finance Committee. As a result of this lack of funding, the squad's members spend the whole year fundraising for competition fees, road expenses and uniform costs.

Their persistence can be noted in their 50/50 raffles, T-shirt and hat sales, bake sales, talent shows and concessions sales. This year's fundraising resulted in $3,500 that allowed the team to make appearances at four regional competitions.

They competed at the Rhode Island's Mounties Invitational, the NCA Regional, Basketball Hall of Fame Invitational and the Regional at Six Flags New England. The team's routine was judged on gymnastics, stunting, cheer, dance and jumping.

Romig noted, "With all these different sections, the routine is very demanding in the fact that it requires flexibility, strength, coordination, and athleticism throughout."

In a notable year, Midd Cheer surpassed all expectations on its way to a third-place finish at the NCA Regional and a second place finish at the Basketball Hall of Fame Invitational before bringing home the champion honors at Six Flags New England.

This crowning moment was the highlight of the squad's season as the Panthers placed first over stiff competition such as SUNY New Paltz, RPI and Mount Holyoke.

They also edged out several intense "all-star squads" that consist of an area's best cheerleaders who practice in their own facilities with professional level trainers and choreographers.

One would think that this regional success would satisfy captain Pergolizzi, Romig and the other Panthers. Think again.

"We are constantly trying to improve and raise our level of competitiveness," said Romig. For example, this Sunday, May 9, the Panthers will be holding a stunt clinic with a professional choreographer. The squad hopes to increase its stunt repertoire, learn some new choreography and promote interest among members of the College community. The session will be open to any student interested. There is no doubt that the high-energy session will be intense, action packed and fun.

Romig continued about the squad's future by saying, "Next year we will look to increase squad numbers, move towards more difficult routines and stunts while being able to compete at a national level."

With Romig and fellow captain Lauren Wollin '05 at the helm, Midd Cheer looks poised to take the national cheering scene by storm. Pergolizzi, a graduating senior, cannot believe what has happened to her small vision and is amazed at what lies on the horizon.

"There has been so much success and we are just going to continue to grow. With this squad's dedication and the new co-captains' desire, there is no limit to what our group can do. It is a great feeling to know that Midd Cheer is in good hands."

Courtesy Photos

Middlebury's club cheerleading team has transformed from an individual's idea into a team's reality. The present group has become fixated upon improvement in only its third year of activity. Right: The team shows off one of its routines at Homecoming this past fall. Below: The group celebrates after its third-place performance at the NCA regional.

Men's lax heating up for NESCACs

By David Freedman
Sports Editor

With a 12-5 dismantling of Williams College and a strong 14-6 win over Bates College to close out the regular season, Middlebury's men's lacrosse team earned the NESCAC Championship's #1 seed for the fourth straight year. After a fairly bumpy season full of extremely close wins and rocky performances, the Panthers clamped down hard on two good teams this past week and will look to ride the momentum of those efforts into this weekend's NESCAC final four, where Middlebury will take on Amherst College at 12 p.m. on Saturday, May 8.

In both outings, the Panthers put together a complete game on both ends of the field for the first time this season, harassing the opposition's attack on defense, creating turnovers off rides and getting good looks at the cage — and finishing those looks.

"It was a nice way to end the season and a nice way to head into what should prove to be a very tough NESCAC final four," Head Coach Erin Quinn said of the way the Panthers finished out league play. "The top four teams in the league made the finals and they are all very good. We are a much better offensive team than we were the last time we played Amherst, but they are a tough defensive team. They're very athletic and they have a very good goalie as well."

Middlebury showed its own athleticism and defensive potential this week. The Panther defense — without one of its captains and preseason first team all-American long pole John West '04 due to injury — limited Williams to 22 shots compared to Middlebury's 44 and threw Bates completely out of rhythm in offensive sets. Ed Brown '05, Will Rawson '05 and Gabe Wood '06 — West's replacement — all contributed to another outstanding performance by goalie Eric Krieger '04, who made important saves on the few shots that reached his net.

Against Bates, the midfield got involved in the scoring column in its most productive game of the season. "They accounted for 10 of our 14 goals," Quinn pointed out, "with six different midfielders scoring. They played much better recently and its showing."

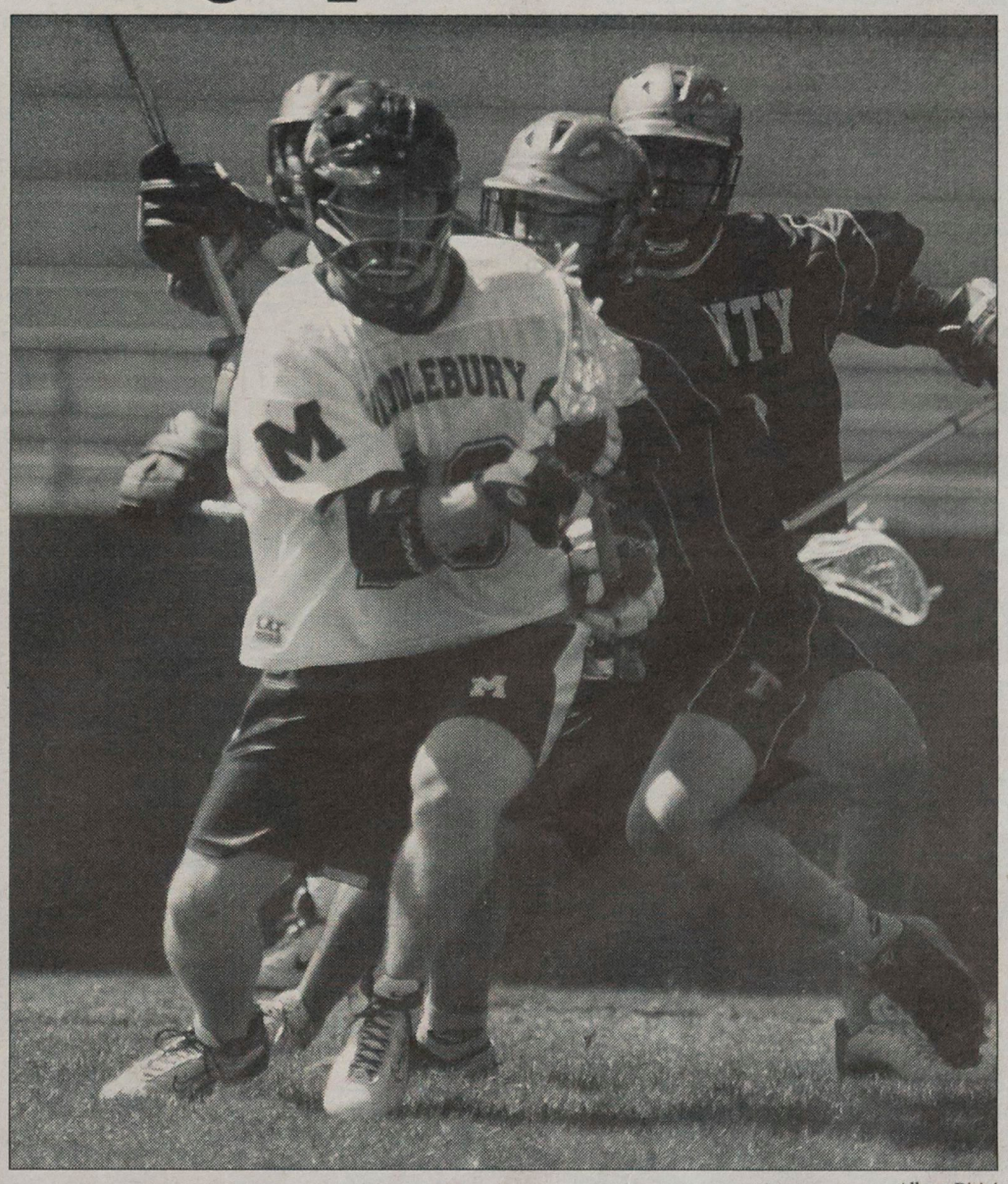
Tri-captain Greg Bastis '04 led the way with three goals, Travis Meyer '06 added a pair of his own, while Dave Leach '05 and Andrew Giordano '05 added a goal and an assist each.

The starting attack of Mike Saraceni '04, Charley Howe '04 and Mark Foster '05 — the team's top three scorers — had a relatively quiet week with Foster netting a pair against Bates, and Saraceni doing the same against Williams. Nevertheless the trio was effective on rides and efficient on offense to round out the Panthers' wins.

After four straight games decided by only one goal, Middlebury finally blew past its opponents in a deep league, looking much more like the team ranked in many preseason polls as #2 in the Division III.

"We're playing loose now," Bastis said. "When you lose a guy like West — someone as good as him and important to the team — it makes you realize it's pointless to play tight and nervous like we have been. We're playing much more confidently, and we're having more fun out there."

Middlebury's new-found attitude will be put to the test against the Lord Jeffs in a rematch of a Panther 7-6 victory four weeks ago, where Middlebury will look for a repeat performance.



Albert Bitici

The Middlebury Panthers ran away from this past week's opposition, defeating Williams and Bates by seven and eight goals respectively.

Rowers make namesake at NE regatta

Crew team's strong performance prepares boats for Dad Vail

By Emily Berlanstein
Staff Writer

Last weekend New England's finest Division III rowers gathered in Worcester, Mass., for the New England Rowing Championships on Lake Quinsigamond. Three of four Middlebury boats competed in the Petite Finals, a showdown between third and fourth place boats in the morning heats, as the Panthers proved themselves among New England's best.

The novice women's eight of Ellie Kim '07, Nura Suleiman '07, Kathryn Babin '07, Anna Eisenstein '07, Rebecca Hollewijn '07, Miko Heller '07.5, Anna Blasiak '07, Lauren Nazarian '07 and Devyn Young '07 placed second in the Petite final, after narrowly missing the Grand Final, finishing just 2.4 seconds behind the University of New Hampshire in their morning heat. In the Petite Finals, they defeated Smith, U.S. Coast Guard Academy, Williams and Mt. Holyoke and fell behind Wesleyan, en route to a time of 8:53.9. This result earned the novice women an eighth place ranking among their peers in New England.

The novice men's eight of Brooke Adams '07, Matt Griswold '07, Steve O'Banion '07, Dave Wood '07.5, Ian Hough '07, Neil D'Astolfo '07, Stuart Hurt '07, Dave Walker '07 and Louis Paollela '07 fell just half a second short of Williams in the Petite Final, finishing fifth in their morning heat. Head Coach Alex Machi commended their performance and their season. "These guys, who may have had the most challenging season of any Middlebury team ever, improved perceptibly in every race through this short spring. They gave a strong performance in the morning event which would have earned them a trip to the Petite Finals had they been in another heat. Still, they competed the season with an admirable effort and great prospects of success for next year," he said.

The varsity women's four of Stephanie Prichard '06, Taylor Bolz '04, Betsy Sullivan '04.5, Sara Hayes '05 and Emily Loesche '05 finished second in the Petite Finals in a match-up reminiscent of last year's ECAC Regatta final. After emerging from the morning heat with a fourth place finish and a time of 9:12.1, the varsity four went neck and neck with

Dad Vail is the biggest collegiate regatta in the world and the Middlebury rowers are optimistic about their chances.

Amherst in a grueling race, plagued by an unrelenting headwind. The boats traded leads for the final 400 meters, but the Lady Jeffs ultimately crossed the line first, by a margin of two hundredths of a second. Machi remarked, "It was a tremendously exciting finale to the season."

The varsity men's eight of Camden Burton '06.5, G.P. LeBourdais '04, Jeff Koppernolle '04, Matt Daylor '06, Doug Penrose '06, Luke Mueller '04, Ricky Klein '07, Ryan Gallagher '06 and Steve Gangemi '04 competed in the Petite Finals against crews that outweighed them by an average of 20 pounds per rower, such as powerhouses Bates, UNH, U.S. Coast Guard Academy, Tufts and Worcester Polytechnic Institute. The Panthers showed tenacity in the morning heat as they held off a late challenge by Colby College, securing a fourth place finish and a time of 7:29.1. In the Petite Finals, the Middlebury men entered the race with a powerful start, hoping to win the lead in the first 500 meters and hold onto it for the remaining 1500. The strong head-wind was too much for the Panthers though, who finished in sixth with a time of 8:06.1.

While the New England Rowing Championships were the season finale for many Middlebury rowers, the novice women's eight and the varsity women's four of Jillian Everly '04, Becky Latka '04, Emily Berg '05, Meredith Coburn '07.5 and Carolyn Gersh '04 will compete next weekend at the Dad Vail Regatta on the Schuykill River in Philadelphia. Driven by the size and competitiveness of the field. Dad Vail is the biggest collegiate regatta in the world and the Middlebury rowers are optimistic about their chances.

ANGRYPETER

BY PETER YORDAN

Middlebury is green once again, and that means that my time is just about up. This week is the first of a lot of lasts in my Middlebury career — my last class, my last homework assignment, my last softball game and, of course, my last column. Several months ago I came up with the idea for a sports column using an unfortunately resilient first-year nickname as a title. Most people don't consider me an especially angry person, but it's a good shtick, and what's a columnist without a shtick?

Writing "Angry" is a relatively easy task — you just work yourself up about something long enough to get 450 words. It's never hard for a Middlebury student to find something to be angry about, despite the fact that, for most of us, these are our halcyon days, and we'll be lucky to encounter a setting as idyllic as this college. Still, being angry has its place. It keeps things churning — keeps discussion going. And there is much to discuss. College athletics will always be problematic. It is a marriage in constant need of work because both sides demand prioritization. Serving two masters is a tricky thing.

In my years covering Middlebury athletics, however, I have to say that the marriage works remarkably well. Our Athletic Director and our coaches shatter college sports stereotypes, consistently going the extra step to act humbly, think broadly and put the best interests of the student first. For every "bad" student-athlete there are hundreds of good ones going to great lengths to play sports for no gain save the personal satisfaction they draw from it. There may be some "goons" at Middlebury, but for the most part the ethic and passion of our athletes — be they baseball players, skiers, runners or perhaps even cheerleaders — is inspiring. I'll miss writing about them.

I have but one final comment, and it is less a critique than a suggestion. The men's lacrosse team is an undisputed national powerhouse. Every year since I have been here they have been the team to beat at the Division III level. And every year the NCAA tournament has fallen over graduation weekend. At least in the years I've been here the team's seniors have always elected to go play rather than to take part in graduation. Their reasons for doing so are understandable and justifiable. Still, when I interviewed President McCardell earlier this year he told me, "I hope 10 years down the road they still feel they made the right decision." I used to agree with the lacrosse players that team unity was more important. But now, with my own graduation looming, I'm not so sure. I think I'd rather have Middlebury known as the team whose players always choose to go back for graduation than be known as the team that always wins.

Angry Peter incites controversy one last time

Graduating senior's love of sport is seen on field, in the stands and in ink

By Alden Bird
Staff Writer

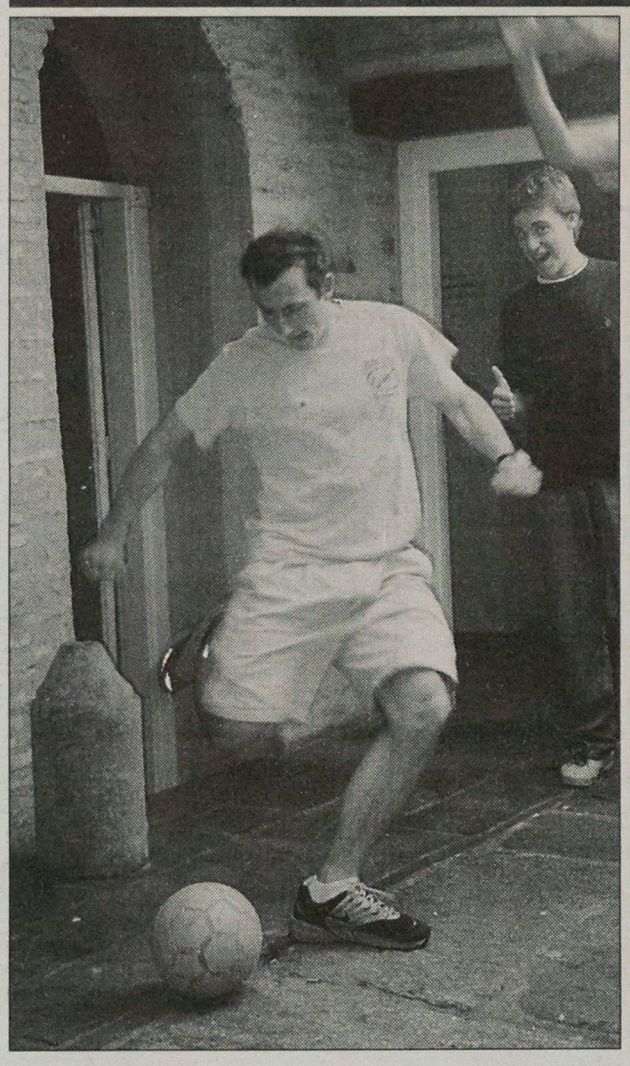
Peter Yordan '04 is getting famous. In his controversial sports column "Angry Peter" in *The Middlebury Campus* Yordan holds court every week like a sports professor. Each week he offers up his witty perspective on a part of college life rarely discussed with such seriousness. Not everyone enjoys his columns, and he has sparked more than one angry note. Polemics aside, he possesses a singular devotion to athletics — as an athlete, fan and writer. Therein lies the unique story of Peter Yordan — the veritable Frank Deford of the liberal arts scene.

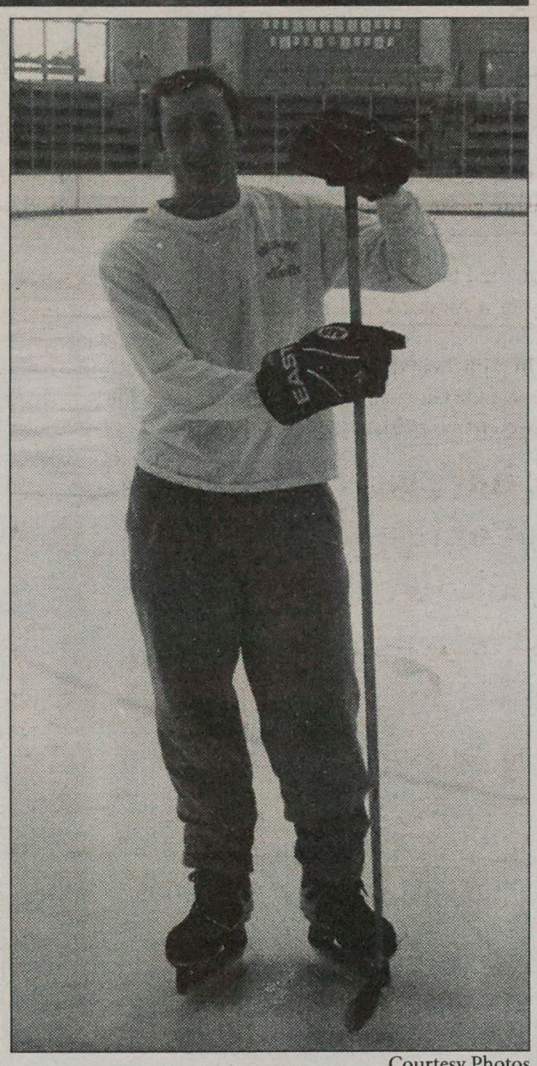
Yordan started his career with *The Campus* during his first-year at Middlebury as a staff writer for the news section. However, his first article, "Football-free homecoming has alums on offensive," appeared on the front page of the Sept. 20 2000 issue, heralding the direction this eager young writer would eventually take. Throughout his four years with *The Campus*, Yordan has written for every section and as a lowly "beat writer" covered sports as varied as men's basketball, women and men's hockey, women's volleyball, men's soccer, men's lacrosse, women's tennis, women's golf, rugby and women's cross-country. Yordan, after returning from Spain his junior spring, became the assistant sports editor, then headed up the section the following fall. Now, as a senior staff writer, he willingly helps out, writing features on a myriad of different subjects while keeping up with "Angry Peter."

Yordan is a bull in a china closet. In competition he is known less for finesse and more for abandon — the kind associated with otherwise well-meaning fathers who play a little too rough in the annual "Father & Son" game. Even in the men's intramural soccer league at Middlebury College — a notoriously skilled and competitive setting — Yordan's play is noticeably aggressive. Yordan the soccer goalie is known for defending his net with slide tackles and shoulder-checks. Once, when his team moved him to striker, Yordan put his knee into the opposing goalie's rib cage-hard. Yet there is no trace of malice. It is with a dreamy, not entirely-of-this-world demeanor that he witnesses his own violence. You simply would not want Yordan at the wheel of your Subaru — not with that wild streak. Not with all those daydreams going on.

This is the young man whom friends know as terse and shy. It is a curious irony that the one who can create such lucid and bold prose is often awkward in public conversations. Indeed, his reserved countenance is the source of his nickname — "Angry Peter." Back on Yordan's first-year hall there were two students named Peter. The other one looked like he was on drugs a lot — or so they teased. This student became "Mellow Peter." The other Peter — the young columnist — had a constantly serious expression and did not look like he wanted to "jump in your game." Hence Peter Yordan became "Angry Peter."

Until recently the nickname was little more than a first-year's joke, but with his column in *The Campus*, Yordan has truly developed an unmerciful reputation worthy of his nickname.





Courtesy Photos

Sports are an integral part of Peter Yordan's '04 world. During his years at Middlebury he's become immersed in a life-style centered on competition and entertainment — a combination he outlets through religiously following varsity teams, participating in intramural sports and contributing to student press and student opinion on sports-related issues. Top, far right: Yordan is pictured with his oft-mentioned IM soccer team, the Iron Monkeys. Above Left: Playing soccer in Spain. Above Right: Getting ready for an IM hockey game in Kenyon.

The controversy began in the Jan. 29 issue of *The Campus*. In his column Yordan stated, "Now you'll never find a bigger proponent of intramural sports than me, but I have a confession to make. I hate broomball... I can't think of any game with more pain and less payoff than this ill-formed, redheaded bastard stepchild of hockey ...Couldn't these people direct their energies toward something useful, maybe some sport where skill actually matters?"

It was a red-blooded attack, carried off with about as much wisdom and logic as a 300-word column can muster. And there were some angry responses. One broomball fanatic suggested Yordan rename his column "Bitter Peter," but Yordan was not finished. Next he blasted Middlebury sports fans — Feb students in particular — for their uninspired cheering at hockey games. In the March 11 issue Yordan complained, "Sure, we're great at humiliating bad opponents... Yet in a close game against Hamilton we allow ourselves to be browbeaten by a handful of Hamilton goons."

Yordan's column sparked a public protest. At the next hockey game the student section was filled with poster-waving Febs. The signs had Yordan's face on them, each with a different taunt written on it, poking fun at the senior columnist. One poster read, "Peter Yordan is the product of a conjugal visit." Another said, "Peter Yordan doesn't understand literary subtleties." And still another proclaimed, "Peter Yordan is a gentle lover." The eccentric protest amused Yordan and after the game he gathered the posters and taped them up on the wall of his room.

Yordan has received much "hate mail" concerning his column — most recently concerning his criticism of Middlebury cheerleaders. Cheerleader Jenny Studenroth '06 called it "Really unfair the way he treated us" and sent a letter to the editor. Many students do not appreciate Yordan's opinions. "You can intentionally piss people off or you can sound like an idiot," said Bryan Goldberg '05. "But you can't do both. That is Peter Yordan's problem."

Yet the column has a loyal (if often silent) following. Members of the men's varsity hockey team, Yordan's self-proclaimed "favorite sport" are great fans of the column. "We think it's great," said senior hockey player Andrew Helming '04. "We all read it and talk about it. We think it's funny, but also a good column."

He possesses a singular devotion to athletics — as an athlete, a fan and writer. Therein lies the unique story of Peter Yordan, the veritable Frank Deford of the liberal arts scene.

Yordan's recent exploits are nothing new. A quick look at Yordan's high school writing career reveals continuity. Back in 2000 Yordan wrote a column called "What is a Sport?" for his high school newspaper, *The Hotchkiss Record*. "Is pro wrestling a sport?" he wondered. "It depends on whom you ask. Ask a cynical teenager and the answer will probably include reference to your IQ or trailer park upbringing." As a fan of professional wrestling, Yordan bemoaned the lack of respect for this "sport" and came up with humorous suspicions about traditional high school "sports." He questioned sailing, for example: "In sailing half the competitors are essentially ballast. If your job simply entails trying to keep from falling into the lake, you're not playing a sport." Thus Yordan's latest critical efforts have a long history.

In addition to his writing career, Yordan is a joint film and Spanish major. He enjoys making films and has one coming out this spring about Middlebury J-Term life. Yordan also hosts a WRMC radio show called "*Tiempo de Descanso*" that features Spanish music and international soccer reports.

In two weeks Yordan will graduate, and the current issue of *The Campus* features his 17th and last "Angry Peter" column. After years of conducting interviews, Yordan finally finds the tables turned. He is being asked if he will continue journalism next year. "No!" he laughs. "'Cause I'm looking for a job in film, that's why. Who *are* you? Asking 'Why not?'" He shakes his head amusedly and walks away.

Softball finished off by Ephs

Historic season ended in NESCAC finals

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 36

history, and our bats were on fire. We proved to ourselves that we had the talent, we had the energy, and more importantly we had the heart and the motivation to take on any challenge and conquer," said pitcher Megan McCarthy '05.

Unfortunately Bowdoin prevented the momentum from being carried over to Friday, as the Panthers fell to the Polar Bears 2-0. McCarthy got hit early in the game, but was solid for the final six innings. In the first inning the Polar Bears put together three singles and a double to score their only two runs of the game. The Panthers could only muster three hits and no runs off of Bowdoin's Emily Nelson. The loss put Middlebury into the consolation bracket.

Said McCarthy of the Bowdoin loss, "We were facing probably the best pitcher in the league and we were still getting our nerves out. We didn't hit her as well as we should have."

On Saturday morning, the Panthers faced Tufts, who lost to Williams earlier in the day. With each team on the brink of elimination, it was Middlebury who was able to get the hits when it counted. A double by Maura Casey '07 in the fourth inning scored pinch runner Ellen Sargent '07 and right fielder Lilly Hamburger '07.

With a superb pitching performance by both Bowe and Williams, the two runs ended up being all the Panthers needed. The two pitchers combined to allow four hits and no walks in the 2-0 victory.

The win gave the Panthers another showdown against Bowdoin, who had lost to Williams in 12 innings earlier in the day. After losing the previous game to the Polar Bears, the women were eager to get their revenge.

The Panthers scored one run in the first inning and never looked back as Williams coasted to a 5-0 complete game victory. Lauren Guza '06 opened the game with a double, then advanced to third on Sophomore Kate Hurd's groundball to third. The next batter Michaela George '04 sent home Guza with a sacrifice fly to center field. With the win the Panthers advanced to the title game against Williams and eliminated Bowdoin from the tournament.

When asked about the team's energy level before playing their third game of the day Freyer commented, "Our arms might have been a little tired but our hearts were still really in it to give Williams a tough fight."

Albert Bitici

The softball team battles through the NESCAC tournament to the championship game, but the squad's outstanding run at its first title fell short.

In a pitchers duel between Williams ace Liz Gluck and Middlebury ace McCarthy, neither team scored for five innings. Middlebury threatened in the top of the sixth, putting runners on second and third with two outs, but the big hit didn't come.

We have gained a lot of respect in our division and other schools know that we are a team to look out for.

— Megan McCarthy

In the bottom of the sixth, a Middlebury error gave the Ephs two unearned runs and an eventual victory. Gluck's shutout was only the second time this season that the Panthers have been shut out. The first time was the previous day when the Bowdoin's Nelson threw the shutout.

In spite of the loss to archrival Williams, the players are optimistic about next year. Having reached the tournament for the first time in 2003, the Panthers reached the finals this year. If the trend continues, a NESCAC title could be Middlebury's for the taking as early as next year.

Said McCarthy of the evolution of Panther softball, "Our performance this year has definitely said a lot for Middlebury softball. We've got great talent and a special camaraderie that motivates us to work hard for each other. We have gained a lot of respect in our division and other schools know that we are a team to look out for. 24-8 is an awesome record and we truly earned every victory."

Womens lax preps for NCAAs

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 36

fourth consecutive year, their foe in the finals was Amherst, their notorious nemesis.

Amherst always provides good games for the Panthers, and the two teams have established themselves as the leaders of New England Lacrosse. The near-capacity crowd that came out on an overcast Sunday afternoon was expecting a tightly contested duel. However, Middlebury ran away with the crown, dominating the play for most of the game's action. After the Lady Jeffs took a 3-0 lead with 18 minutes left in the first half, the Panthers shut them out for the next 33 minutes, taking a 12-3 lead halfway through the second half on their way to the 14-6 final tally.

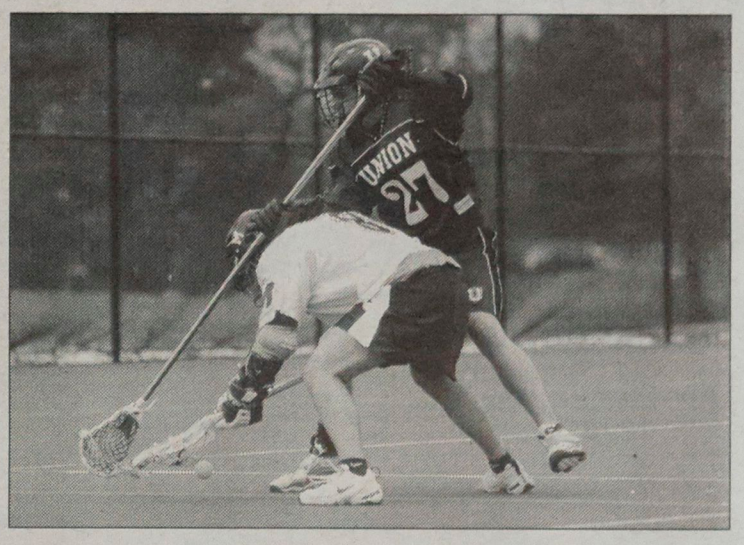
The Panthers had numerous individuals playing outstanding games. Senior captain flamethrower Nuala O'Donohoe poured in three goals and an assist, as did sophomore Schuyler Winstead, and Elizabeth Renehan '06 scored two goals and an assist as well. First-year phenom Kim Walker scored two goals, and fan favorite Michelle Bergofsky '06 scored one goal and one dime.

It was Middlebury's fourth NESCAC title in as many years, and the win gives them an automatic bid in the NCAA Championships — Amherst got an at-large bid — and will host one of four regional tournaments before the Big Dance. The other teams in Middlebury's bracket include Wheaton, William Smith and either New England College or Cortland State. As has been a trend in Middlebury Lacrosse the Panthers are clear favorites.

SPORTSBRIEFS

BY DAVID FREEDMAN, SPORTS EDITOR

Men's lacrosse hosts final 4



For the fourth straight year Middlebury will host the NESCAC men's lacrosse championship at Alumni Stadium on Youngman Field. The Panthers beat out Tufts — who also finished at 8-1 in the NESCAC — for the league's top seed under the rules of the tie-breaking procedure because Middlebury won the head-to-head match-up. The top seeds in the tournament advanced in this past Sunday's games after the second-seeded Jumbos edged seventh-seeded Conn College. They will take on third-seed Wesleyan, which ousted Trinity 8-7, on Saturday. Middlebury will take on Amherst at 12 p.m. on Saturday as well after the Lord Jeffs defeated Bowdoin — the only NESCAC team to beat the Panthers in three years. The championship game will take place the following Sunday at 12 p.m.

Grenert earns NESCAC honor

Middlebury's women's lacrosse goalie Sarah Grenert '04 was named the NESCAC player of the week for the first time in her career after allowing only 13 goals in two games, making 18 saves in the Panthers' fourth straight league championship. In leading Middlebury to its title after beating Bowdoin and Amherst, the senior from Sewickly, Pa., leads the NESCAC and is second in the nation with a 5.33 GAA and a save percentage of .650, which puts her at fifth in Division III. Grenert has anchored the Panther defense tremendously this season in all 14 of her starts on the year.

Women's lax plays regional host

With its fourth straight undefeated regular season under its belt, the women's lacrosse team will play host to one of the four NCAA regionals on Peter Kohn Turf Field for the 11th straight year this Saturday and Sunday. The Panthers will take on the winner of the Cortland/New England College game at 11:30 a.m. followed by the William Smith vs. Wheaton in the second game immediately afterward. The regional final will take place Sunday at 1 p.m. with the winner moving on to the NCAA semifinals at St. John Fisher College in Rochester, NY. The Panthers will take aim at its third National Championship in four years after falling to Amherst in last year's national final.

Women's golf wins Eph Invite

The women's golf team rounded out its short spring season with a pair of victories at Williams College tournaments, the most recent first-place finish coming this past weekend at the Lady Eph Spring Invitational against three other schools. Middlebury was paced by Kelly Ortega '07, who shot an 89 in her round, while her sister Allison Ortega '07 and fellow first-year Heather Gallagher ended their afternoons with 90s. Sally Hartman '06 and fellow sophomore Lauren Young finished Middlebury's five scorers shooting a 96 and a 97 respectively. The Panthers won three out of four tournaments in Williamstown this academic year, placing second on October 12 in an expanded field of six teams.

CHEERLEADING | MIDD CHEER GROWS INTO REGIONAL POWERHOUSE | 32

LACROSSE | LAX TEAM BLOWS OUT NESCAC RIVALS TO HOST LEAGUE FINAL FOUR | 33

GAMES TO WATCH

WOMEN'S LACROSSE
VS. CORTLAND/NEC
MAY 8 | 11:30 AM | TURF

MEN'S LACROSSE
VS. AMHERST
MAY 8 | 12 PM | STADIUM

campus sports

THURSDAY, MAY 6, 2004

Men's tennis wraps-up Northeast regional

NCAA victory over Trinity propels men's team to tournament quarterfinals

Albert Bitici

Brian Waldron '06 and the men's tennis team unleashed their intensity against Trinity on Sunday, winning an NCAA regional at home for the second straight season.

By Sean Breen
Staff Writer

For the second straight year, the Middlebury College men's tennis team will advance to the NCAA quarterfinals. The Panthers defeated Trinity 5-1 this past weekend in the NCAA Regional Championships and advance to next weeks quarterfinals hosted by Bates College in Lewiston, Maine.

"After Trinity had already played a tough match the day before, we knew they had the momentum and the ability to make for a competitive day," sophomore Ari Beilin said. "We definitely came out fired up, knowing that we had to play our best to move on."

Sophomore Brian Waldron's win in #2 singles (6-4, 6-4) secured the victory for the Panthers. A few matches were in the middle of their sets when it happened, and so finished up, but sophomore Nathan Edmunds had just split his first two sets when Waldron clinched the win, and so did not finish. With the defeat of Trinity the Panthers are 15 – 3 on the spring season.

Middlebury didn't leave anything to chance, winning all three doubles matches in the morning to take a 1-0 lead into the singles tournament. Justin Ingoglia '05 and NESCAC rookie of the year George Mayer '07 played in the #1 position and won a tough tie-breaker (11-9) to get the Panthers on the board. The duo of Beilin and Alex Scott '07, who have dominated opponents all year, were winners again 8-6 at the #2 doubles spot. Finally, NESCAC Player of the Year Edmunds, and Waldron, controlled the #3 slot, winning easily 8-4.

The singles story was more of the same. Edmunds played in the #1 spot, but did not finish his match. Waldron won at #2 in straight sets, as did #3 Beilin, who continues his terrific season, 6-2, 6-4.

Mayer fell in a tough match in the #4 position 6-2, 2-6, 6-4. Ingoglia managed to pull off two back-to-back close sets to win at #5, 7-5, 7-6 (8-6), and Scott dominated the #6 slot, winning 6-1, 6-4.

The win is a continuation of Middlebury's recent success. The team is peaking at the perfect time. Waldron seems to be stepping things up as NCAAs approach and Edmunds had continued his solid play. The team on a whole has a great dynamic of substantial depth. While the team has many younger players, the veterans of the squad help give confidence to the team, which plays with the experience of a senior squad.

NCAA's are nothing new for Edmunds, Waldron, Beilin or Ingoglia, who all played in last year's event. This year, however, the panthers are playing much better than fourth in the country and #1 is only a few weeks away.

As the team looks to the NCAA Championships at Bates, a few of the squad's top players plan on staying in Maine a while longer. After the team championship concludes on the May 14, the NCAA individual competition will begin.

The selection committee has just named this year's competitors and Middlebury will be well represented. Edmunds and Waldron will take on the rest of the nation in singles play while the duo Ingoglia and Mayer will try their hand in doubles. Hopefully, these select few will continue an already successful week.

"We know we have solid chance to win the title, and we'll have to beat a lot of strong teams along the way to do it," Beilin said, "but we've just got to focus on the first match and not get excited and overlook any our of opponents.

Softball gives all in title bid fall

By Daniel Inadomi
Staff Writer

The most successful season in Middlebury softball's seven-year history came to an end last Saturday night. The Panthers fell to the Williams Ephs in the NESCAC title game of the double elimination tournament. Despite the loss, it was a great season for the Panthers, who set a school record with 24 wins and reached the NESCAC title game for the first time. With the win, Williams became the first team other than Tufts to win a NESCAC title.

Before heading to the NESCAC tournament, Middlebury hosted a doubleheader against Norwich. The Panthers won both games by scores of 8-5 and 4-3, extending their winning streak to 10. Lauren Bowe '04 and Jen Williams '07 both threw complete games in the two victories, and senior Christina Freyer led the way offensively with three runs batted in over the two games.

The Panthers felt good going into the NESCAC tournament hosted by Williams College. "The team was definitely pumped for the tournament. We were coming from some huge wins against Norwich, the first in Middlebury

See Softball, page 35

Women's lax takes NESCACs

Panthers win fourth straight league championship

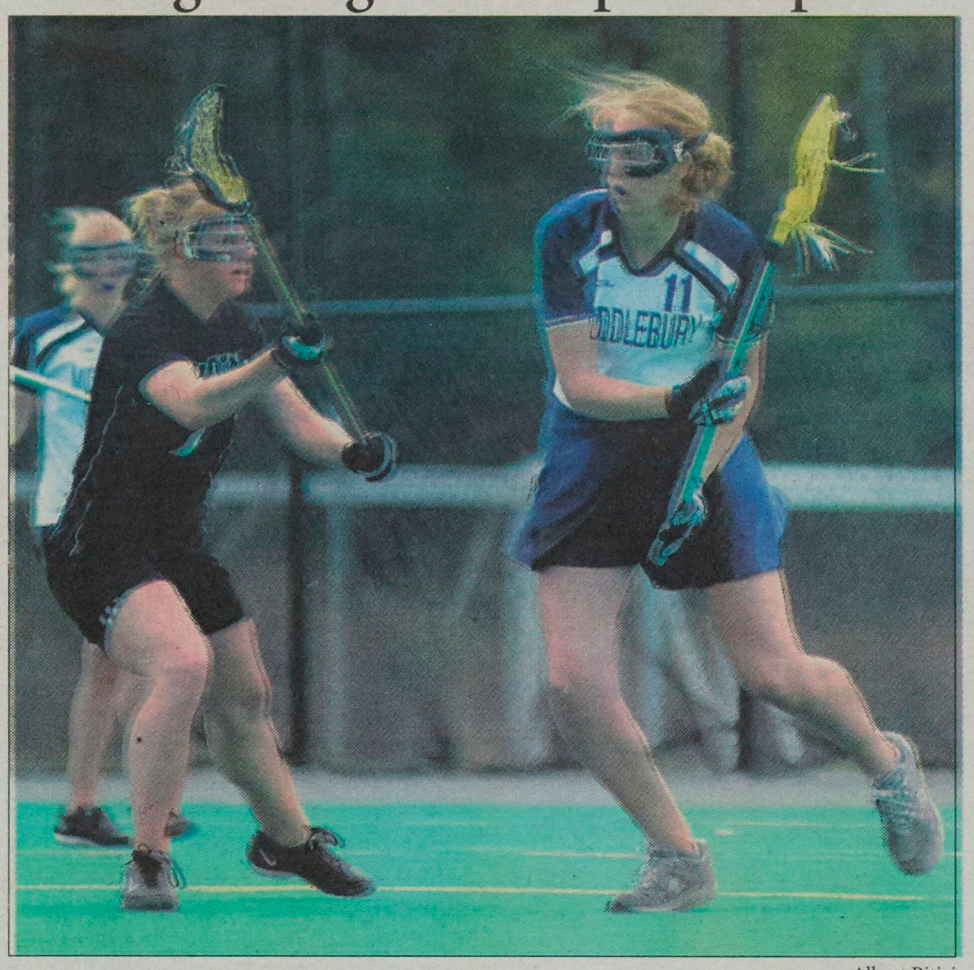
By Jack Donaldson
Sports Writer

The Middlebury women's lacrosse team keeps winning games — and now championships — at an exceedingly efficient pace. This past week, the team won an uncharacteristically close match against Bowdoin in the NESCAC semifinals at Kohn Field, 9-7, and then finished off rival Amherst in the finals with ease, winning 13-6. The two wins further solidified a historical 2004 season of achievement for the Panthers.

The sun shined brighter than it has all year on Saturday, allowing a large crowd and high spirits for the game against the Polar Bears of Brunswick, Maine. However, Bowdoin knew the competition they were going to face, and brought a gritty attitude to the contest. For the first 15 minutes of the battle, the two teams were locked at 1-1, a score that was cemented by two fantastic saves from Bowdoin goalkeeper Kendall Cox on free position shots. Middlebury then scored three goals in a 42-second span with about 10 minutes left in the first, and went into the half up 5-3.

Bowdoin stayed close for the entire contest, down by seven at the most and less than four for most of the second stanza. In fact, they had several good shots in the last couple of minutes, but the Panther defense, and Sarah Grenert '04 in goal, held firm to get the win, putting Middlebury in the finals. And for the

See Women's Lax , page 35



Albert Bitici

Sophomore Michele Bergofsky dodges a Bowdoin defender on Saturday in the Middlebury's semifinal victory en route to a fourth straight title. Bergosky netted two goals on the day.